WRESTLERS & CELEBRITIES
What's To Come And What Could Have Been

THE WRESTLER

The Wrestler

"QUIT, MICK!"

A Desperate Plea From a Distraught Wife

- How Jason Sensation Fired Up The Nation!
- It's Coming ... Hardcore World War!
- Q & A: Chris Jericho

Holiday 1998

$2.50 U.S. $3.50 CANADA £1.95 U.K.

13

0 09128 00389 4

CALL THE OFFICIAL ECW HOTLINE

THE ONLY HOTLINE FOR HARDCORE FANS!

Hosted by the voice of ECW, Joey Styles

Don't dare call yourself a fan of ECW if you have not called THE OFFICIAL ECW HOTLINE.

GET A FREE ECW MERCHANDISE CATALOG

CALL TODAY

TO GET THE LATEST ON...

- **Confidential wrestling news from every promotion!**
- **Results from all live ECW events including pay-per-views!**
- **Vote for the ECW Wrestler of the Year!**
- ***PLUS* Hear Joey Styles "shoot" from the hip!**

IN THE U.S.: 1-900-446-4ECW (1-900-446-4329)

IN CANADA: 1-900-451-2666

IN THE U.K.: 0897-555-233

This service is available for both touch-tone and rotary-dialed phones
Cost per minute in the U.S. $1.99, cost per minute in Canada $2.49, cost per minute in U.K. £1.00

Kids under 18 need parental permission before calling

4729/4-98

HOLIDAY 1998

THE Wrestler

DEPARTMENTS

4 YOUR LETTERS
6 WHAT'S HAPPENING by Bill Apter
8 NO HOLDS BARRED with Steve Anderson
10 BLINDSIDED by Harry Burkett
12 THUMBS UP, THUMBS DOWN
14 CORRESPONDENTS REPORTS
16 YOU ASKED US
18 INTRODUCING SHANNON MOORE
20 Q & A: CHRIS JERICHO
24 X-RAY: CHAVO GUERRERO JR.
26 FROM BELL TO BELL by Mike Quackenbush
28 SPOTLIGHT ON BRET HART
30 WRESTLING SCRAPBOOK
61 *THE WRESTLER* CLASSIC (February 1988)
64 OFFICIAL WRESTLING RATINGS
66 RATINGS ANALYSIS

PAGE 34

PAGE 46

FEATURES

34 **QUIT, MICK!**
A DESPERATE PLEA FROM A DISTRAUGHT WIFE!
Collette Foley is imploring her husband to retire

38 **WRESTLERS & CELEBRITIES**
WHAT'S TO COME & WHAT COULD HAVE BEEN
Bruno vs. Johnny Carson—could it have happened?

42 **IT'S NOT COMEDY NOW!**
HOW JASON SENSATION FIRED UP THE NATION!
The group is stronger and more united than ever

46 **IT'S COMING ...**
HARDCORE WORLD WAR!
What happens when the FMW guys join forces in ECW?

Next issue on sale November 17, 1998

YOUR Letters

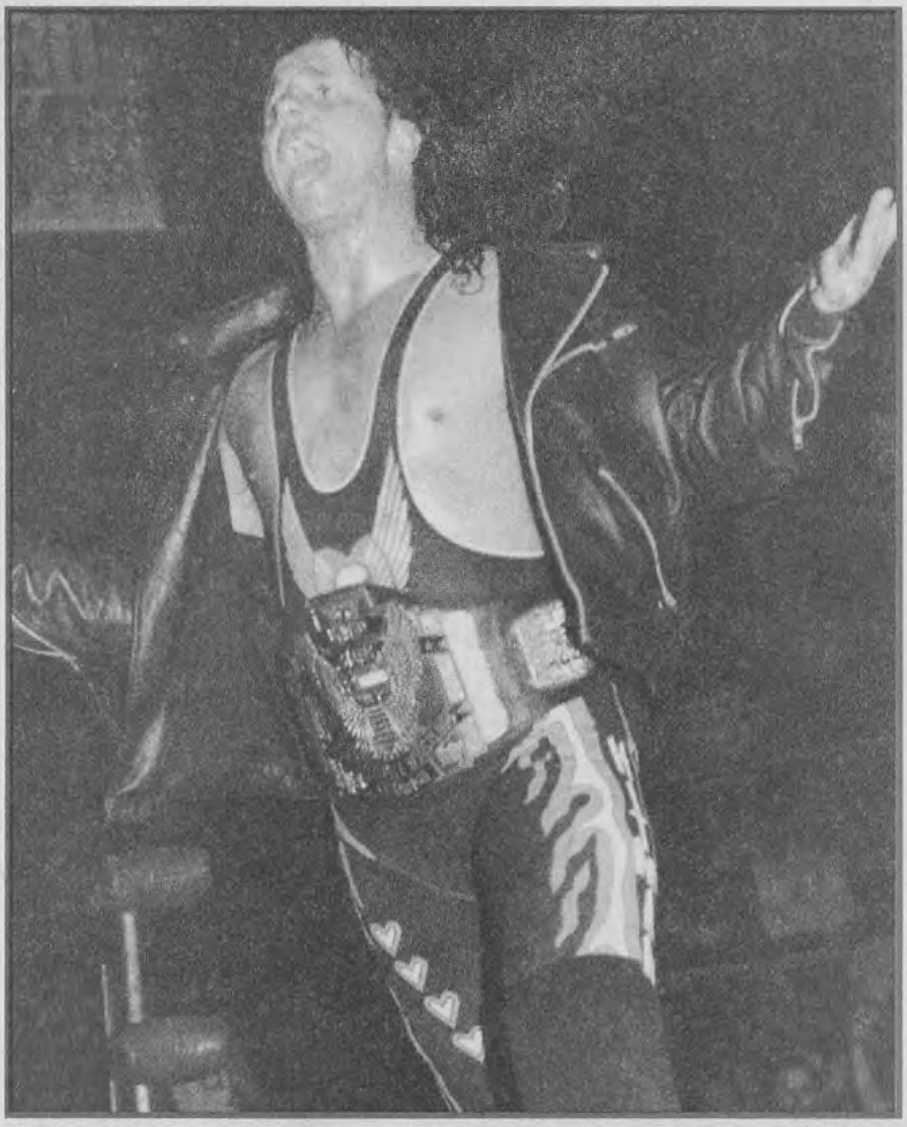
"HITMAN" *LOVERS*

In response to Mark Ertel's "'Hitman' Hater" letter in the October 1998 issue, I think you should open your eyes and smell what you are shoveling. The "Hitman" is now the WCW U.S. champ, while Hollywood Hogan is beltless. Why should Bret worry about him?

Bret's true fans know that Hart has a motive for every move he makes, and he knows his way around the squared circle better than most wrestlers do. Bret's loyal fans will stick with him and will have the last laugh when the big belt ends up where it belongs.

You and I agree on one thing, though. We both agree that Randy Savage should have retired five years ago.

S.K. HODGES
San Antonio, TX



WCW U.S. champion Bret Hart has elicited nothing but criticism from WCW fans lately, but readers like S.K. Hodges and Melissa Reep fell the "Hitman" has gotten a bad rap from the fans.

This letter is in response to Mark Ertel's letter about Bret Hart in the October issue. Anybody who saw what Vince McMahon did to the "Hitman" knows that Bret is no creep. And if you want to call the "Hitman" dirt, then you must call every other wrestler dirt as well, because Bret isn't the only wrestler with two faces.

As for Randy Savage, he could never end Bret's career anyway. The only thing I agree with is that it was a mistake for Hart to get involved with the black and white in the first place.

MELISSA REEP
Dallas, NC

JUST PLAIN DISGUSTED

I couldn't believe what I saw on *WWF War Zone* on June 22. That was the night when a huge amount of "blood" was dumped on "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin. I was (and still am) nauseous about that incident. How could the WWF and the USA Network show an act like that on television?

My family and I will never view the WWF as the leader in family entertainment again. What they put out isn't a family show anymore. It used to be good, clean fun. Instead, it's become a ratings war. Personally, I don't care about ratings. But lately, that's all Vince McMahon seems to care about. I can't believe how low the WWF has sunk.

SHEREE CANNON
Kannapolis, NC

MISSING FLAIR

Steve Anderson hit the nail on the head in his "No Holds Barred" column in the October 1998 issue.

Wrestling has definitely changed. I grew up in the '80s watching Ric Flair and The Four Horsemen running roughshod over everybody in their path. They laid the foundation for the NWO, and now Eric Bischoff has allowed Flair to get lost in the shuffle. He's showed Flair absolutely no respect. I don't know what Ted Turner was thinking when he hired Bischoff to be WCW president.

Ric Flair gets ready to lower the boom on Alex Wright. Morgan Gibson believes WCW was out of line for suspending Flair, whom Gibson calls the "Babe Ruth of professional wrestling."

Ric Flair is the Babe Ruth of professional wrestling and should be treated as such. Bischoff might have thought he was making an example of Flair by suspending him, but you don't make an example of the greatest wrestler to ever set foot in the ring.

Unlike Hollywood Hogan, who was making awful movies and defending his title once every three or four months, Flair defended his belt night after night against the best wrestlers in the world.

Just as Arn Anderson said, the longer Ric stays away from the ring, the more his legend grows. But I hope he realizes how much he's missed. I hope he returns soon, whether it is in WCW or elsewhere. It would be a shame if Flair doesn't get to bow out of the sport on his own terms.

Long live the "Nature Boy."

MORGAN GIBSON
Blountville, TN

SNIFF SNIFF

Do ya smell what "The Rock" is cooking? That's the question "Triple-H" and the rest of DeGeneration X are probably asking. "Triple-H" has had many opportunities to capture the Intercontinental belt from the self-proclaimed "People's Champ," but he has had no success. Hunter was so wrapped up in his quest to get the I-C belt that he lost his European title.

Hunter should just face the facts: "The Rock" is going to land the "Rock Bottom" every time they wrestle each other. I smell what "The Rock" is cooking—it's the WWF World championship.

LAVAN BASS
Brandon, FL

(Continued on page 50)

The Wrestler

STANLEY WESTON
Founder

PUBLISHER ..... Stuart M. Saks
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF ..... David Lenker
SENIOR EDITOR ..... Bill Apter
MANAGING EDITOR ..... Brandi Mankiewicz
ASSOCIATE EDITOR ..... Frank Krewda
SENIOR ART DIRECTOR ..... Wendy Vetter
ART DIRECTORS ..... Joseph Kalman, Alex Krasnopolsky, Walt Schmidt, Tracy Fedorowicz
PRE-PRESS DIRECTOR ..... Cliff Campo
PRE-PRESS ASSOCIATES ..... Kelly Grant, Alex Bryniarski
PHOTO EDITOR ..... Frank Vitucci
SENIOR WRITERS ..... Steve Anderson, Bryan Ethier, Dan Murphy, Andy Rodriguez, David Rosenbaum, Harry Burkett
CONTRIBUTING WRITERS ..... Matt Brock, Elizabeth A. Hunter
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR ..... Craig Peters

Vice President/Marketing
David Gerhardt

Executive Vice President/Circulation
Kenneth J. Gudaitis

Circulation Director
Robert Nucci

Advertising Director
Sharon Liggio
(215) 643-6385

Customer Service
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

Cover Photos:
Mick & Collette Foley By Bill Apter
Leno & Page Courtesy WCW

Cover Design:
By Tracy Fedorowicz

THE WRESTLER (ISSN: 1052-0899), Vol. 32, Number 13, is published monthly, with an additional issue in December, by London Publishing Co., 7002 W. Butler Pike, Ambler, PA 19002. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002 and additional post offices. Postmaster: Send change of address notices to: THE WRESTLER, P.O. Box 2029, Dept. 9, Marion, OH 43302. Single copy price $2.50 ($3.50 in Canada, £1.95 in U.K.). Subscription price $29.20 for 13 issues in the U.S., $39.60 in remaining countries. Not responsible for the loss or non-return of unsolicited articles or photographs, which will not be returned unless accompanied by a self-addressed envelope bearing the proper amount of postage.

No part of this magazine may be reproduced without the written permission of the publisher. All rights reserved.
FOR ADVERTISING INQUIRIES AND RATES: (215) 643-6385. U.S. and Canadian distribution by Kable News Inc., 641 Lexington Ave., New York, NY 10022. International distribution by Worldwide Media Service Inc., 115 East 23rd St., New York, NY 10010, U.K. distribution by Comag, Tavistock Rd., West Drayton, Middlesex UB77QE, England.

Printed in U.S.A.

WHAT'S Happening

By Bill Apter

I'VE NEVER SEEN **Hollywood Hogan** so scared. The sweat was dripping down his face as **The Warrior** confronted him face-to-face at the August 17 edition of *WCW Monday Nitro*. It was the first time he had seen him since their days in the WWF together, and the first time he looked upon him as an adversary since April 1, 1990, the day Warrior beat Hogan for the WWF World title in their only one-on-one match.

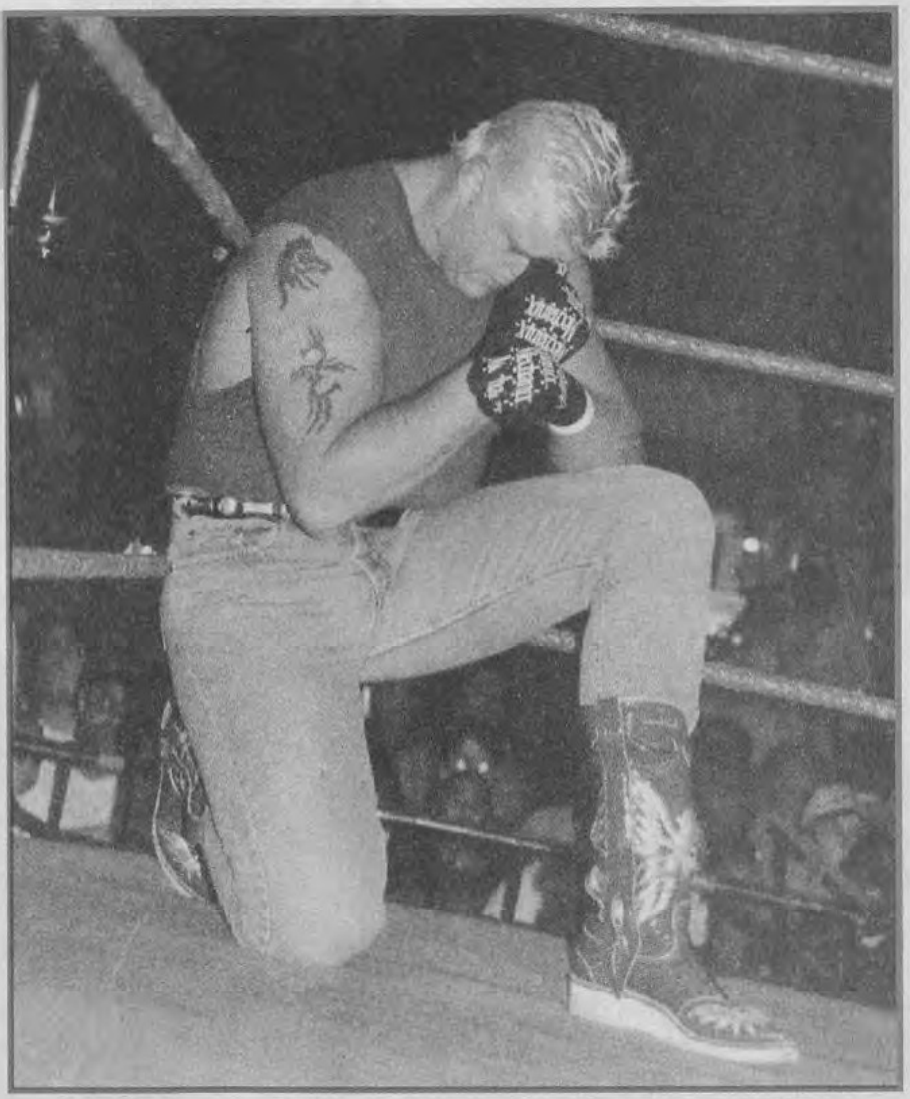
The two men respected each other so much after that match that they went on to become friends. But because he received movie offers and because he wanted to start his own training center in Arizona, Warrior eventually left the sport for a few years. He briefly returned and competed for an independent organization in 1995, then came back to the WWF for a few months in 1996 before leaving yet again.

And although he was no longer an active competitor, he continued to watch the sport on TV regularly and was disgusted to see Hogan as the head honcho of the NWO.

"I watched as Hogan turned his back on all the little Warriors, and disgust filled my inner soul," Warrior told me the morning after his WCW debut. "Say your prayers, take your vitamins—all the pure words of Hulk Hogan have been

Eight years ago, the relationship between Hulk Hogan and The Ultimate Warrior was a very good one (right). Now it's quite a bit more adversarial (above). The war of words rages on!

Is Dustin Runnels sincere when he says the WWF needs to clean up its act? Many believe that he isn't. Is he about to unleash another shocking (and offensive) character upon us?



catapulted into a dark universe, where they lie, in the darkness, perhaps forever. The tears of the Hulkamaniacs cannot be stopped. Warrior returns to dry their eyes and bring values back to the future of our world."

Hogan insists he *isn't* afraid of this man.

"Yeah, I was surprised to see the brother starin' me in the face, but I fear *no man,"* Hogan told me a few hours later. "He didn't beat me in 1990. He beat *Hulk* Hogan, not *Hollywood* Hogan. Hulk Hogan was a wimp, and I'm sorry I ever had anything to do with that dude. The NWO-ites know Hollywood won't have any trouble beating The Warrior. I won't go so easy on him like the 'Hulkster' did eight years ago. By the way, if you think I was sweating when he was talking to me, that wasn't sweat dripping down my face. The Warrior has a disgusting habit of spitting when he talks. Well, he better say his prayers and take his vitamins, because he'll need them. He's never been up against Hollywood and all the NWO-ites!"

Shane McMahon, the son of **Vince**, has been named president of new media for Titan Sports (the parent company of the WWF). He will be responsible for exploring, developing, and managing the interactive network that reaches WWF fans worldwide. Shane has also become a broadcaster for the WWF's *Sunday Night Heat* program ... **The Border Patrol** has beaten **The Midnight Express** to become the new NWA tag team champions.

What's going on with **Dustin Runnels**? I first met him even before he became a wrestler. I watched him when he was an outstanding and humble competitor, when he was a cross-dresser

(Continued on page 51)

Steve Anderson's View

No Holds Barred

with Steve Anderson

"It is time to cease my seclusion. My preparation is complete; my discipline unparalleled. Ironically, our new journey begins in an adversary's own backyard. Let the revolution begin. Always Believe, Warrior."

—Posted on The Warrior's Web site, August 12, 1998

The Warrior made his intentions crystal-clear when he made his first WCW appearance at the August 17 *Nitro*. He wants to destroy the evil Hollywood Hogan. Will he stick around long enough to finish the job?

IT TURNS OUT no introductions were necessary.

When The Warrior emerged out of the shadows and into the spotlight in WCW on August 17, long-standing rumors were put to rest. He had indeed returned to professional wrestling. He wasted little time in making his intentions clear by confronting the man who, in defeat, helped make him a legend: Hollywood Hogan.

There was something a little special about *Nitro* that night. The broadcasters were brash, reminding viewers that *Raw* (without mentioning it by name) was taped and that the main event wouldn't last long. They did as they had regularly done a few years ago and tried to discourage people from changing the channel. Once again a major former WWF star had crossed the Mason-Dixon line.

On that night, *Nitro* handily beat *Raw* in the ratings. The Warrior's impact was immediately felt in those all-important Nielsen numbers. But is this short-term gain good for the long-term health of WCW? After all, Warrior's recent stints in wrestling have been pretty short themselves. Do they want to thrust the spotlight on a man who has been so quick to walk away from it in the past?

Questions. So many questions. There has always been great hype surrounding Warrior's comebacks and a lot of discussion about his departures. One minute he is shaking the ropes and talking of revolution, the next minute he is gone in, dare I say, a puff of smoke. Many detractors will look upon this return as only temporary. He will get the fans all wound up only to abandon those dreams of an "ultimate" comeback.

But I guess all I am saying is give Warrior a chance.

Let's face it: There are not

(Continued on page 54)

SPECIAL HOLIDAY GIFT OFFER

If you are looking for a special holiday gift for a wrestling fan, we have the answer. Try a gift subscription package of the world's best-selling and most respected wrestling magazines! It's the only holiday gift that lasts the entire year! Just check off which gift package you want, and we do the rest, including sending a gift notice to the recipient. There's no better way to make this a memorable holiday season for someone you love!

GIFT PACKAGES AVAILABLE

Magazine Title	Per Year Price	Per Year Can/For.	Issues	New	Renewal
☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED	$32.80	$43.20	13	☐	☐
☐ THE WRESTLER	$29.20	$39.60	13	☐	☐
☐ INSIDE WRESTLING	$29.20	$39.60	13	☐	☐
☐ WRESTLER & INSIDE WRESTLING	$54.75	$75.55	26	☐	☐
☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, WRESTLER & INSIDE WRESTLING	$79.80	$107.10	39	☐	☐
☐ WRESTLE AMERICA & WRESTLING SUPERSTARS	$25.30	$31.70	8	☐	☐
☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY	$49.99	$88.99	52	☐	☐

GOLDEN GIFT OFFER

☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED, WRESTLER, INSIDE WRESTLING, WRESTLING SUPERSTARS, & WRESTLE AMERICA	$96.65	$134.25	47	☐	☐

Send To:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
P.O. BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

Please enter the gift subscription(s) I've checked on the order form above.

Please indicate method of payment:
☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA #_____
☐ MasterCard #_____
Expiration Date: ___/___
MO / YR

Signature:_____

THIS GIFT IS FOR _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____

YOUR NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
CITY _____
STATE _____ ZIP _____
TELEPHONE # _____

RINGTHEBELL on Archive.org

(All orders outside U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Add $2.50 per issue for airmail. Please allow up to eight weeks before receiving first issue) 4356/08-96

Biased:

By Harry Burkett

HERE'S THE LOWDOWN on D-Lo Brown: There's no telling how low down Brown will take the European title. First of all, he wouldn't have even won the belt from Hunter Hearst Helmsley if Rocky Maivia hadn't interfered in the bout, causing Hunter to get pinned. Brown had a chance to redeem himself by putting the title up in a rigorous series of defenses. It hasn't happened.

Since he won the European belt on July 14, Brown has only occasionally put the title on the line. He prefers non-title matches. His excuses range from "There ain't nobody around who deserves a title shot" to "We ain't in Europe, are we?"

Of course, the first excuse is ludicrous. Anyone currently in the WWF top 10 is deserving of a title shot. In fact, any wrestler rated in the federation's top 10 probably has a better record than D-Lo. Why should Brown hold Ken Shamrock, Steve Blackman, Vader, and X-Pac to such a high standard? Prior to winning the European title, Brown never even qualified for a ranking.

D-Lo isn't big in Europe

Unfortunately, Brown's second excuse has some credibility. Why *should* a champion of Europe be required to defend the title in New York, California, or Idaho? And Canada may still be a member of the British Commonwealth, but it can't be considered a part of Europe, either.

The installation of the WWF European title back in February 1997 seemed to be a big leap forward. It was appropriate that the WWF, whose television programs are presented in 80 languages around the world, should cement its global status by giving Europe a champion of its own. The sellout crowds and incredible merchandise sales recorded during its European tours proved that the continent deserved representation. And, if the European belt was successful, there might be a WWF Middle East champion or an Asian champion. Such a worldwide proliferation would make the WWF stronger than ever.

Davey Boy Smith defeated his brother-in-law Owen Hart for the title in a hotly contested tournament final in Berlin, Germany, then made several defenses throughout Europe, most notably in his native Great Britain. Although Smith and his Hart Foundation cohorts were despised in the United States, he was hugely popular in Europe. Smith became a sympathetic figure when Shawn Michaels, with the help of DeGeneration X, attacked "The British Bulldog's" knee and took advantage of that injury to win the title in Birmingham, England, in September 1997.

That's when the word "Europe" should have been erased from the title belt. Michaels made few title defenses overseas and put all his energy into defeating then-WWF World champion Bret Hart. Once Michaels regained the WWF title, he regarded the European belt as more of a hindrance than a benefit. Michaels "lost" the championship to DX pal Helmsley in a bogus bout.

At that point, the title became nothing more than a token prop in the long feud between Helmsley and Owen Hart. Owen held the title briefly, but lost it back to Helmsley a few weeks later. From then on, the title was only a colorful accessory to Chyna's earrings, as Helmsley usually opted to swig spring water rather than carry his belt to the ring.

The championship's decline is also due, in large part, to the infrequence of WWF European tours. Two or three tours per year is significant, but it doesn't allow a champion to defend the belt in Europe once every 30 days. To compensate, the WWF has allowed the European title to be defended throughout North America.

Why bother? Does it mean very much if it isn't defended on European soil?

D-Lo Brown has a chance to revitalize the championship during a crucial period. He should demand opportunities to defend the belt in Europe (he now bills himself from various European cities). If the WWF isn't going on tour, the federation should work with other European promotions to allow the title to be defended at local shows. Such a measure would raise fan interest in the WWF and might encourage the viability of future tours. Footage of the European champ defending against regional competitors or even fellow WWF stars would promote the federation's status as a world wrestling leader.

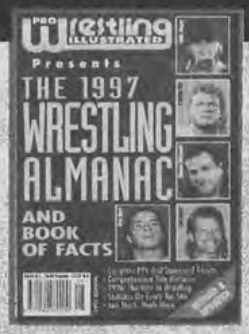
D-Lo Brown claims Euro-Disney is already designing a ride called "The Low-Down," to honor his title victory. Too bad he might never be in Europe to see it. □

WRESTLING COLLECTORS!

Do you know what you're missing?

We have limited remaining supplies on five of the most popular issues London Publishing has ever produced! Order now—before they're all gone!

1997 WRESTLING YEARBOOK
We turn loose caricaturist Jason Conlan one more time (whether his subjects like it or not!). 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!



1997 WRESTLING ALMANAC
The authoritative wrestling reference tool. Complete PPV and supercard results. Title histories. 1996 in history. Stats. Digest-sized. 196 pages!

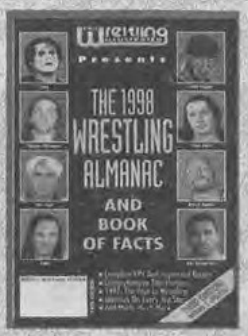
PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. I)
One select "Press Conference" since 1979, *PWI's* first year. Scott Hall, Bruno Sammartino, Dallas Page, Kevin Von Erich, Ric Flair, and more! 32 color pinups!

THE STATE OF THE GAME
We break the sport down in every conceivable category and present our expert analyses as to where the sport is at and where it's going. 32 color pinups!

TRUE LIFE STORIES
What you never knew about Shane Douglas, Rey Misterio Jr., "Diamond" Dallas Page, Larry Zbyszko, Chyna, Jerry Lawler, and Sunny. Includes incredible photos of their lives before wrestling!

FANTASTIC FINISHERS
The most intricate holds and maneuvers are analyzed, their effectiveness explained, and their origins revealed. 32 color pinups!

1998 WRESTLING ANNUAL
Butt-kickin', attitude-laced profiles, plus a look at what the future holds for wrestling's top superstars. 32 color pinups!



1998 WRESTLING ALMANAC
Our third edition, including updates on every section, plus a look back on 1997. Digest-sized, 196 pages.

PWI INTERVIEW SPECIAL (Vol. II)
One "Press Conference" for each year since 1980, including Hogan, Andre, Cactus, Austin, Sting, and more! 32 color pinups!

1998 WRESTLING YEARBOOK
Caricaturist Jason Conlan loads up his poison pen and takes aim at another series of victims. 30 scouting reports. 32 color pinups!

- ☐ 1997 Yearbook
- ☐ 1997 Wrestling Almanac
- ☐ PWI Interview Special (Vol. I)
- ☐ State of the Game
- ☐ True Life Stories
- ☐ Fantastic Finishers
- ☐ 1998 Wrestling Annual
- ☐ 1998 Wrestling Almanac
- ☐ PWI Interview Special (Vol. II)
- ☐ 1998 Wrestling Yearbook

Please send the collector's issues I have indicated! I have enclosed $7 per issue as payment in full (postage included) or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum please). Send to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 910
Ft. Washington, PA 19034

Name_____
Address_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

Please indicate method of payment:
☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA #_____
☐ MasterCard #_____
Expiration Date:__/__
MO YR

Signature:_____

For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every issue to be sent surface mail, and $3 for every issue to be sent airmail. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

SLAMTHEBELL.com Archive.org

4743/07-98/2c

THUMBS UP

Thumbs Up to Stacy Carter. In the long recent line of wrestling's pretty faces who are proving they're not *just* pretty faces, Stacy Carter—Jerry Lawler's girlfriend—has shown she can handle herself in the ring. Stacy stepped up in Lawler's feud with Power Pro Wrestling promoter Randy Hales and has handled herself admirably in matches against men. Not only have Lawler and Stacy scored numerous tag team victories over Hales and Billy Travis, but she pinned Hales in a much-anticipated hair vs. hair tag team match. The weaker sex? Not on your life. Not with women like Chyna, Sable, and Stacy around.

Thumbs Up to Bart Gunn. Until recently, nobody had considered Bart Gunn one of wrestling's most dangerous men, but that has changed. Not only has Gunn—formerly half of The Smokin' Gunns with brother Billy and half of The Midnight Express with Bob Holly—established himself as a legitimate singles wrestler in the WWF, but he scored some impressive victories in "Brawl For All" matches. He destroyed Kama, Bradshaw, and Steve Williams, one of the toughest men in wrestling, en route to winning the tournament. Gunn packs a mighty punch and isn't afraid of anyone. Someday we might say, "Bart Gunn? Can you believe he used to be just a tag team wrestler?"

Thumbs Up to Taz. The former ECW TV champ has done quite a bit lately. Not only did he destroy the much larger Bam Bam Bigelow at ECW's Heatwave pay-per-view, but he helped Sabu and Rob Van Dam run off The Triple Threat *and* the Dudleys at a recent ECW card. Will we soon see the formation of a new supergroup in wrestling? Sabu had already wrestled a marathon match on the card, but he knew he had to help Van Dam when The Triple Threat attacked. Taz, who had no allegiance to either side, realized immediately which side was in the right. He also realized Sabu was tired. He read the situation properly and reacted properly.

Thumbs Up to Rick Steiner. Well, we sure know who the coward in the Steiner family is. Scott came to the ring on a gurney when his brother called him out at Road Wild. Clearly, Scott doesn't want any part of Rick. Of course, Scott didn't mind attacking Rick when he had his back turned—or when the rest of NWO Hollywood was there to help him. Rick has been chasing down Scott for months. He'd love to teach him a lesson. And, at press time, he was about to get his chance at Fall Brawl. Of course, Scott tried to get out of that match, but Rick wouldn't let him. For Rick, it's a matter of pride. He needs to settle this situation once and for all.

THUMBS Down

Thumbs Down to Eric Bischoff. Let's face it, the former announcer, now WCW president, is an embarrassment to the federation and the sport. He's all talk, no action. And, to make matters worse, he couldn't even handle talk show host Jay Leno, who's not exactly in top physical condition. Sure, Bischoff talked a good game … a very obnoxious game. His pseudo-talk show bits on *Nitro* were a pathetic waste of good air time. His performance against Leno was a waste of everybody's time. The end came for Bischoff after Leno delivered a low blow, then *Tonight Show* bandleader Kevin Eubanks executed a surprisingly effective "Diamond cutter." Who's Bischoff's next opponent? Larry King?

Thumbs Down to Chyna. Big woman. Big muscles. Big brain? Maybe, but that's not what she's been showing these days. Of course, we really didn't need to see Chyna's posterior, not the way she exhibited it on *Raw*. When Hunter Hearst Helmsley talked about giving the people what they want, he wasn't talking about Chyna mooning the crowd and television audience. At least we don't think that's what he was talking about. Let's face it: WWF wrestlers have shown an exhibitionist streak recently. First Sable, then Chyna. We don't know about you, but we'd prefer it if they kept their clothes on and stuck to wrestling.

Thumbs Down to Tod Gordon. We found out for certain in July that the former ECW commissioner was one of five masked men who invaded the NWA in New Jersey in late-June. Then Gordon led a group of six former ECW stars—including Rocco Rock and Stevie Richards—in another attack on NWA promoter Dennis Coraluzzo and Doug Gilbert (the late Eddie Gilbert, a former ECW star, was one of the many people Gordon put down in a profanity-laced speech that night). Clearly, Gordon has a problem with Coraluzzo (and Coraluzzo has a problem with Gordon). But can't they settle their differences privately and more diplomatically?

Thumbs Down to Bret Hart. We know this much is true: The "Hitman" can't be trusted. Anything he says has to be questioned. Like they used to say about Richard Nixon, how can you tell when he's lying? When his lips are moving. Hart keeps saying he's a member of NWO Hollywood, and in the same breath says he's a close friend of Sting. No way. And in a match against "Diamond" Dallas Page for Hart's U.S. title, Hart somehow managed to sneak a foreign object into Page's tights and get him disqualified. We know which side Hart is on: NWO Hollywood's. And we know he's one of the bad guys. There's no doubt about that.

CORRESPONDENTS Reports

Montreal, Quebec *(Correspondent—Francois Corbet):* Vince McMahon again did his best to try to screw Steve Austin out of the WWF title on this card at the Molson Centre. Having already signed Austin to wrestle Kane and The Undertaker in a triple threat match, he assigned his good friend Pat Patterson to be special referee.

Patterson didn't try to hide his disdain for Austin. When he came out for an interview, he insulted the fans and announced that even though Montreal is his hometown and he is fluent in French, he would not speak that language on that night. As the crowd booed him loudly, he also promised Austin would lose the title.

When it finally came time for the main event, the ovation for "Stone-Cold" was so loud that no one could hear the ring announcer. And the crowd wasn't disappointed by the action. Austin traded punches with Kane. He went toe-to-toe with The Undertaker. Kane slugged it out with his half-brother.

Since the first man to pin either one of his foes was to walk out as the WWF champ, all three men broke up pinfall attempts of the other men in the match. For a while, Kane effectively wore down Austin, but "Stone-Cold" kept fighting back and eventually executed a "Stone-Cold stunner" on him. Only problem was, Patterson refused to make a three-count. That gave 'Taker an opportunity to jump into the fray. He choke-slammed Austin, then used a "tombstone" piledriver on Kane. But before Undertaker could pin Kane, Mankind pulled Kane out of the ring.

When Kane got back in, Austin was ready for him. After slugging Patterson, he "stunned" Kane a second time. When that happened, a second referee ran out and made the three-count. Patterson was so incensed when he found out what happened that he slugged the referee. Austin responded to that by "stunning" Patterson, then leaving the ring.

In other bouts: WWF light heavyweight champion Taka Michinoku beat Scott Taylor ... 2 Cold Scorpio beat Tiger Ali Singh ... X-Pac defeated Jeff Jarrett ... Billy Gunn & Jesse James defeated Mark Henry & Kama Mustafa and The Quebecers in a triple threat match ... Mankind beat Terry Funk ... Val Venis beat Kurrgan ... Hunter Hearst Helmsley defeated WWF Intercontinental champion Rocky Maivia by disqualification ... Ken Shamrock defeated Owen Hart by submission.

Kane had Steve Austin on the defensive for a while during a triple threat match in Montreal that also involved The Undertaker. He succumbed to defeat, however, after Austin used two "Stone-Cold stunners" on him.

Charleston, WV *(Correspondent—Timothy A. Walker):* The crowd for this New Dimension Wrestling card at Walt Powell Park was certainly happy to see original Four Horsemen member Tully Blanchard back in the ring again. But NDW heavyweight champion "Nature Boy" Buddy Landell clearly was not. Landell insulted Blanchard before the match and refused to defend his championship against Tully because, in Landell's opinion, there were other more deserving contenders.

The fans remained behind Blanchard as he gained an early advantage and took Landell down to the mat. Tully worked on Landell's head, neck, and shoulders by using a series of headlocks and armbars in the first few minutes. He

also backed Landell into the corner and nailed him with some hard chops as the fans yelled, *"Whoooooo!"*

Fighting back, Landell whipped Blanchard into the ropes and caught him with a knee to the midsection on the rebound. Blanchard collapsed to the mat, where Landell concentrated his attack on his foe's right leg. At one point, Landell grabbed Blanchard's right leg and twisted it almost to the breaking point. The "Nature Boy" then dropped an elbow onto Blanchard's thigh and went for his signature finisher, the figure-four leglock. Tully, though, broke it by grabbing the ropes. When Landell tried to reapply it, Tully kicked him away.

That signalled the beginning of Blanchard's comeback. He nailed Landell with a hard elbowsmash, then, in a move that surprised everyone, locked on a figure-four of his own. Landell smartly countered that by rolling over on his stomach to put pressure on Blanchard's leg.

It looked then like Blanchard was finished, but he grabbed the ropes to force a break. From there, the match degenerated into a brawl, with the two men trading punches. Soon the action spilled out to the arena floor, where both men tried to ram each other into a ringside table.

When the action returned to the ring, Landell tried for another figure-four, but Blanchard rolled him up for the pin. Landell was so furious afterward that he applied *another* figure-four, this time as he held on to the ropes for extra leverage. Blanchard screamed out in pain as Landell held on for several minutes. Finally, the timekeeper handed him the ring bell, so Landell quickly released the hold and retreated to the locker room.

In other bouts: Chainz (Brian Lee) defeated Dark Patriot ... Demolition Ax defeated King Kong Bundy by disqualification ... The Rock 'n' Roll Express beat The Fantastics ... "Boogie Woogie Man" Jimmy Valiant defeated The Iron Sheik ... Manny Fernandez wrestled brass knuckles champion Rick Link to a double-countout ... Bambi pinned Lelani Kai ... NDW tag team champions The Rising Sun defeated Mike Winner & The Fightin' Okie.

Philadelphia, PA ***(Correspondent—Jeremy Harding):*** Just a few months ago, Chris Candido and Lance Storm were the ECW tag team champions. Problem was, they were also feuding. At that time, most of the ECW fans were very supportive of Storm. But since Candido and Storm lost the title, Storm has gotten a lot nastier. Now more of the fans have thrown their support to Candido.

Lance Storm seemed to be on a mission to defeat *and* humiliate his former tag team partner Chris Candido when they clashed at the ECW Arena recently. He had to settle for just defeating him.

Storm showed that nasty edge of his before facing Candido at the ECW Arena recently. He provoked Candido at the outset by making some comments about his girlfriend, Tammy Lynn Sytch (a.k.a. Sunny). Candido used a series of chops to keep Storm on the defensive early, but Storm came back and hit Candido with a DDT, then blocked his attempt at a suplex and superkicked him.

Both men got several two-counts before Storm knocked Candido out of the ring and dove onto him. Back inside the ring, Candido took down his former partner with a terrific huracanrana and nearly got a pinfall after hitting him with a top-rope headbutt. After several more minutes of back-and-forth action, the referee was briefly knocked out. Noticing this, Candido pulled out a chain and hit Storm. By the time the referee got in position to make a count, however, Storm had kicked out of a pinfall attempt.

Getting a bit desperate, Candido proceeded to strike Storm with a microphone, then position him for a superplex. Storm, however, hit him in the groin, executed a superplex of his own, and got the pinfall victory.

In other matches: Axl Rotten, Mahoney, & Spike Dudley defeated Tommy Rich, Tracey Smothers, & Little Guido ... Ulf Hermann defeated John Kronus ... ECW TV champion Rob Van Dam beat Jerry Lynn ... Masato Tanaka defeated Mike Awesome ... Taz, Bam Bam Bigelow, and Sabu wrestled to a 30-minute draw in a three-way dance ... Justin Credible defeated The Sandman ... New Jack defeated Jack Victory ... ECW tag team champions Rob Van Dam & Sabu wrestled to a no-contest with Buh Buh Ray & D-Von Dudley. □

Send your reports to:
CORRESPONDENTS EDITOR,
Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

YOU Asked Us...

Q: "This question is for my favorite wrestler, Spike Dudley: Spike, I love when you wrestle against Buh Buh Ray and D-Von, but you must have mixed feelings about beating up your own half-brothers. Do you ever have second thoughts about giving them the 'Acid Drop'?"—Ruben Sanchez, Austin, TX

A: **"I never have second thoughts about anything I do in the ring," Spike said. "I just react. There's no time to be sentimental or emotional in ECW. The action is too extreme here. Besides, Buh Buh, D-Von, and 'Big' Dick couldn't care less if they ended my career tomorrow. They don't care about us being brothers, so why should I? When you're my size, you have to approach every match like it's a fight for your life, whether you're facing Buh Buh Ray, Ulf Hermann, or Bam Bam Bigelow. And when you're my size, every match is a fight for your life. What I lack in size I make up for in attitude. The minute I get soft and start crying for my brothers is the minute I wave goodbye to ECW."**

Does Spike Dudley ever think twice about inflicting pain on his half-brother Buh Buh Ray? No way, he says. He'd never survive in ECW if he did.

• • •

Q: "I've got a question for Senior Editor Bill Apter: Bill, I've been following wrestling since 1988, and I can't remember anyone rising to the top like Bill Goldberg has. Do you think his first loss will affect him the way The Giant was affected by his first loss?"—Maurizio Cassani, Milan, Italy

A: **"I'm afraid so," Apter admitted. "Although Goldberg has mowed down everyone in his path, that first loss has to come sometime. And the longer this streak goes on, the harder it will be for Goldberg to immediately rebound from the sting of having it snapped. Of course, I'm no psychologist, but I've seen so many wrestlers get flattened by the first sign of adversity. The Giant is a perfect example of a wrestler who, like Goldberg, grabbed the brass ring right away, but struggled after he lost the WCW World title. Until we see Goldberg rise above adversity, we won't know what he's really made of."**

Chavo Guerrero Jr. didn't present much of a challenge to Bill Goldberg, but someone will eventually (probably) beat him. Bill Apter thinks he could have a hard time bouncing right back.

• • •

Q: "DeGeneration X used to wear a lot of gold in the WWF, but

(Continued on page 56)

Pro Wrestling Illustrated Weekly
HALL WINS WORLD WAR III, EARNS WORLD TITLE SHOT
HEART DISEASE KILLED PILLMAN
SHAWN WINS THIRD WWF TITLE; BRET BOUND FOR WCW?
SYXX FACING NECK SURGERY

NOW AVAILABLE BY E-MAIL!

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED WEEKLY

PACKED WITH INFORMATION!

All the information you want is right here—each and every week! All the latest news and gossip! Comprehensive results from around the world! A calendar of upcoming events! Complete ratings! And feature stories that keep you on top of today's news *today*—with the authority and reliability only the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* team of reporters can provide!

GET IT INSTANTANEOUSLY–VIA E-MAIL!

For those fans who can't get their news fast enough, *PWI Weekly* is now available via e-mail. No longer will you have to wait for your postal delivery. *PWI Weekly* is produced every Monday and sent to e-mail subscribers that very evening! You'll receive electronic text files only, but you'll get them fast—and at no extra cost!

STILL NOT SURE?

Want to try a sample issue of *PWI Weekly*? No problem! Just send us $1.95 and we'll send you a sample copy hot off the press! But be warned: Once you see all the news, results, and information packed into our newsletter, you'll be hooked! (Sorry, no credit cards accepted for single-issue orders.)

WOW! SAVE UP TO 50%!

PUBLISHER'S WARNING: Subscribing To *PWI Weekly* Now Greatly Increases Your Wrestling Knowledge.

Send to:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)
☐ VISA
☐ MasterCard
Card number: _____
Expiration date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature_____

YES! I want to be the first with all the news! Please send me a subscription to *PWI Weekly* as follows:

☐ 17 issues for just $19.99, a 40% savings
☐ 34 issues for just $34.99, a 45% savings
☐ 52 issues for just $49.99, a 50% savings
☐ I'd like to see a sample copy before I subscribe. Enclosed please find a check or money order for $1.95
☐ Please send my subscription electronically via e-mail only at no additional cost (specify e-mail address and postal address)

E-MAIL ADDRESS_____

NAME_____

ADDRESS_____APT#_____

CITY_____**STATE**____**ZIP**_____

Ring The Bell TV on Archive.org

Offer good in U.S. and Canada only. Foreign airmail orders: $2.65 for single issue; $32.74 for 17 issues; $60.49 for 34 issues; $88.99 for 52 issues. International money orders in U.S. funds only. Please allow eight weeks for subscription to start.

4658/12-97/2c

Introducing

SHANNON MOORE

By Dan Murphy

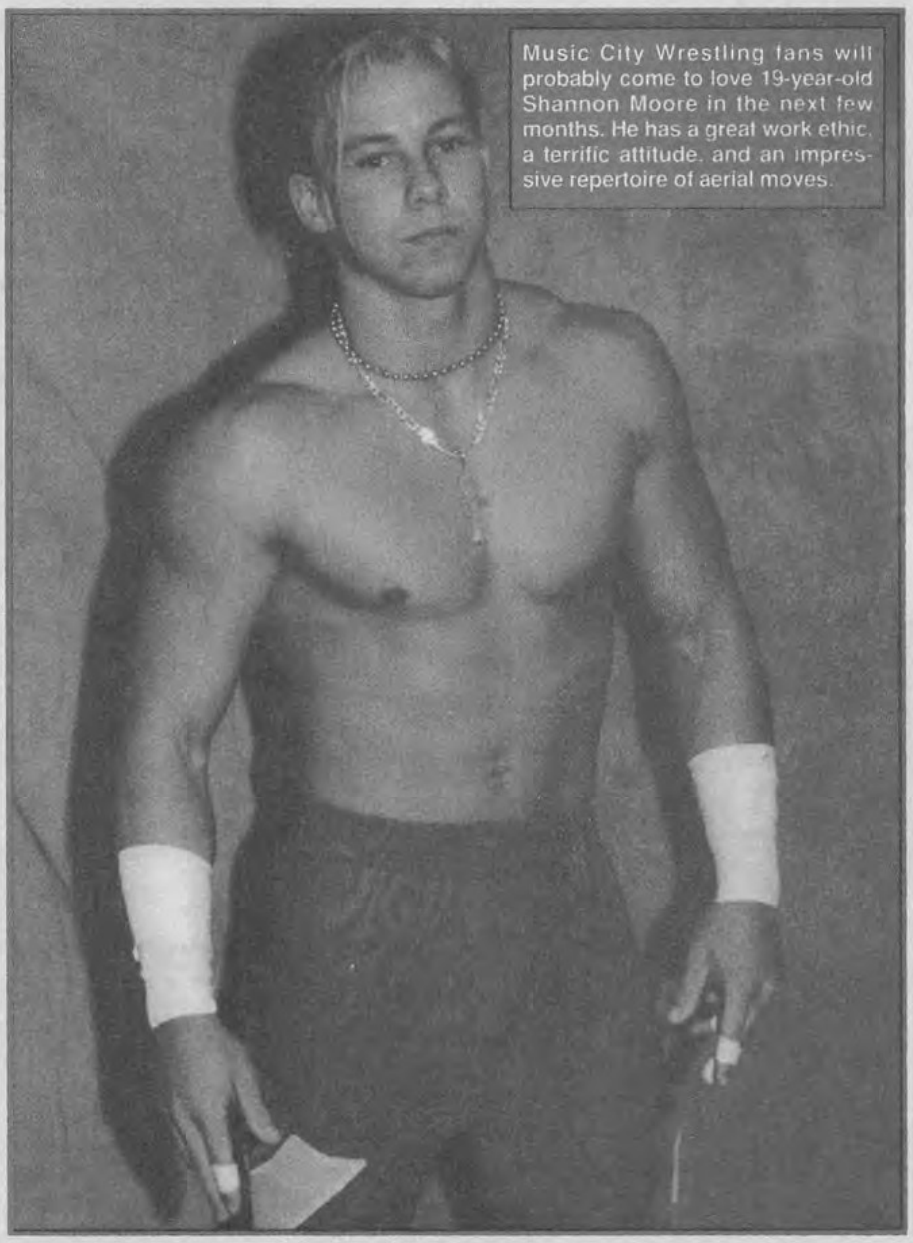
WHILE HIS CLASSMATES were still daydreaming about the freshman dance or trying to make the varsity wrestling team, 14-year-old Shannon Moore had other things on his mind. Like how to perfect his inverted power bomb from a top wristlock and how to find a way to pin a vicious brawler named Wolverine.

The 5'8", 165-pound Moore grew up in Cameron, North Carolina, just a few blocks away from current WWF prospects Matt and Jeff Hardy. The three teenagers became close friends, going to parties and wrestling cards together, as well as riding motorcycles and working out. Soon after the Hardys decided to try their hand at pro wrestling, Moore decided he wanted to give the squared circle a try as well.

After months of training with the two brothers, Moore felt he was ready to put his new skills to the test. On April 8, 1995, at the tender age of 15, Moore made his debut in a New Frontier Wrestling Alliance bout as Kid Dynamo, earning a hard-fought pinfall victory over Wolverine. For Moore, that victory was a sign he had made the right decision.

"I know I'm not the biggest guy in the world, and a lot of guys in the locker room thought I was just a punk kid with a funny name," Moore recalled. "But I think some of them came to respect me a little after seeing me in action."

Though Moore was a big wrestling fan growing up, he spent most of his time in middle school con-



Music City Wrestling fans will probably come to love 19-year-old Shannon Moore in the next few months. He has a great work ethic, a terrific attitude, and an impressive repertoire of aerial moves.

Shannon Moore is only 19 years old, but he already has a handful of regional titles to his credit. He won't be getting any votes in *PWI's* Rookie of the Year balloting, though. Moore, you see, has been competing since age *15!*

centrating on football, baseball, and basketball. He even won an award for maintaining good grades and excelling in sports during his middle school years. When he began his training for a possible wrestling career, Moore drew on that athleticism and patterned his ring style after two of his favorite high-flyers, Shawn Michaels and Rick Morton (a man he now sees almost every weekend on the independent circuit).

And though both Morton and Michaels have turned to rulebreaking in recent years, Moore has pledged to remain true to the rules.

"My goal is just to go out there and do my best all the time and to give the crowd something to get excited about in *every* match," he said. "When the fans go home at the end of the night, I want them to remember my name. When I was a kid, I'd watch wrestling and sometimes think, *Wow, I can't believe this guy did that* or stuff like that. I want kids to say that about me."

Despite his pledge to remain a solid fan favorite, Moore has learned that sometimes drastic situations call for drastic measures. In his travels through NWA 2000, Omega Pro Wrestling, New Frontier Wrestling Alliance, and now Music City Wrestling, Moore has added some more devastating moves to his arsenal. In addition to using his numerous aerial moves, Moore has developed a penchant for putting his opponents through tables.

He has also learned to keep his opponents guessing. In one Omega Pro Wrestling match, Moore caught Joey Matthews sleeping on the top rope. Rather than dropkick his opponent down or attempt a superplex or powerslam, Moore hit a variation of the "Diamond cutter" on the unsuspecting Matthews to get the victory.

Moore has already won the Omega Pro Wrestling light heavyweight title, the American Championship Wrestling light heavyweight title, the National Championship Wrestling light heavyweight title, and the New Frontier title. Now Moore is in search of gold in Music City.

Moore takes to the air against Will o' the Wisp, one of the toughest opponents he has faced during his four-year career. He has already made an impact in several Southern independents.

"This territory has a lot of history, and I'm just glad to be here and to continue to improve," Moore said. "I'm looking forward to testing myself against anyone who will give me a match. Colorado Kid, Wolfie D, Flash Flanagan—whoever. I don't care how big or small they are. All I ask for is a chance."

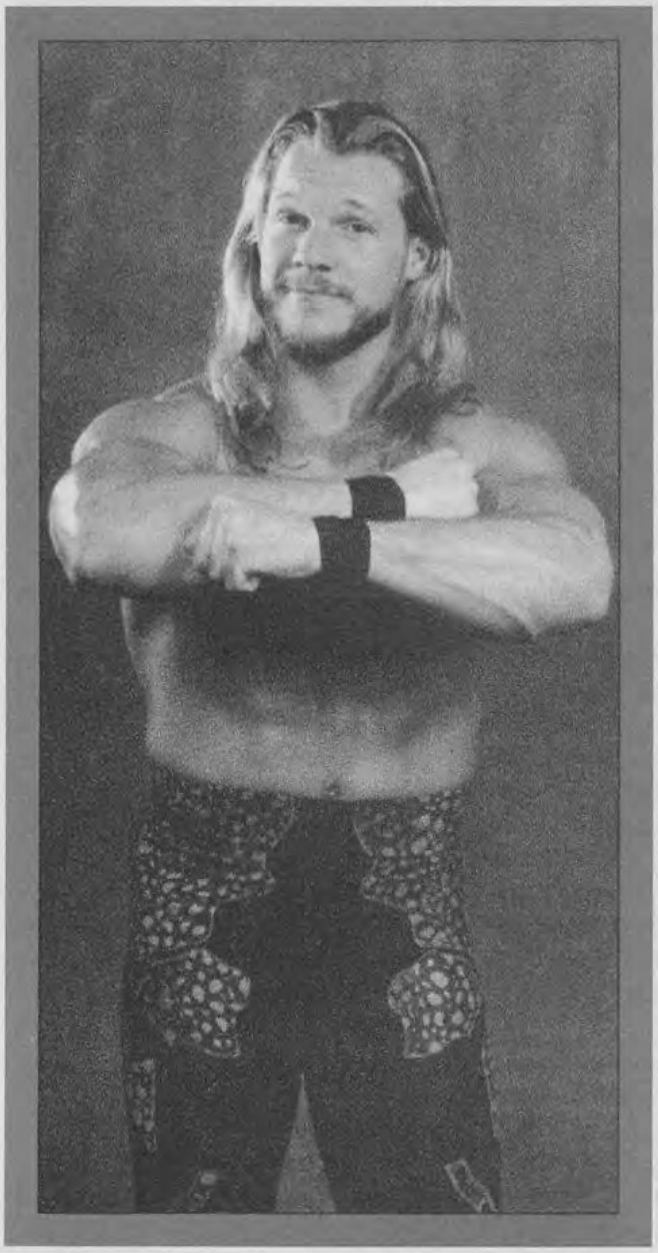
Moore's long-term goal is the same as that of most other young American wrestlers: He wants to make his mark in either WCW or the WWF. Before he accomplishes that, he'd like to travel to Mexico and/or Japan and learn as many different styles as he can. The more styles he knows, the better his chances of beating some of the sport's elite stars someday.

In the meantime, he's ready to keep working to perfect his skills and to continue to thrill his growing core of fans.

"I would never have made it this far if it weren't for the help, advice, and support I've received from the Hardys and guys like Venom, Cham-Pain, Shane Helms, and Joey Matthews," the affable youngster said. "With what I learned from them, and with the continued support of my family, I know I am going to make a mark in the Big Two someday soon. I just know it." □

Q & A

CHRIS JERICHO



BILL CLINTON MAY be known as "The Comeback Kid" in political circles, but Chris Jericho has to be "The Comeback Kid" of pro wrestling. He finally lost the WCW cruiserweight title to Juventud Guerrera at Road Wild on August 9, but while everyone figured Jericho went home and threw a temper tantrum, he was actually considering his next move.

Two nights later, Stevie Ray—substituting for Booker T—was scheduled to defend the WCW TV title against Chavo Guerrero Jr. But when Guerrero walked to ringside, he was not preparing for his match, but rather searching for his stick horse, Pepe. Jericho, who had stolen Pepe, lured Guerrero behind the entrance curtain, where "Lion Heart" ambushed Chavo, rendering him unfit to wrestle. Jericho then goaded Stevie Ray into granting ***him*** *the TV title match.*

Stevie Ray outmuscled Jericho and punished him with stomps and elbowsmashes. Jericho responded with a high-flying attack. At one point, Jericho trapped Stevie Ray in a corner. When referee Mark Curtis tried to break it up, Jericho kicked him in the groin. The Giant jogged to ringside during the confusion, jumped into the ring, and nailed Stevie Ray with a devastating choke-slam. Finally, Jericho snared an unconscious Stevie Ray into the "Lion Tamer." Less than 48 hours after losing the cruiserweight belt, Jericho was the new TV champion.

Jericho's victory brings with it a multitude of questions. Will he accept a challenge from Dean Malenko for the TV belt? Was The Giant's interference a sign that Jericho plans to join NWO Hollywood? Most importantly, will Jericho attempt to be less obnoxious? Senior Writer Harry Burkett spoke with Jericho just minutes after his TV title victory in Rapid City, South Dakota.

Q: I know this is a very emotional moment for you, Chris. It's only been a half-hour since you defeated Stevie Ray for the WCW TV title. Let me be the first member of the press to offer congratulations on your victory.

A: Thanks. I appreciate and deserve that. Where's Bill Apter? Isn't he gonna snap some photos of me for your next cover?

Q: Actually, Chris, this interview is for "Q & A" in an upcoming issue of THE WRESTLER. A cover story has already been selected.

A: What?! I've already provided you with the most inspirational human interest story in the history of wrestling! "Stinko" Malenko robs me of the cruiserweight title on Saturday and I rebound to win the TV belt on Monday! I, Chris Jericho—despite the injustices, crimes, misdemeanors, and felonies committed against me—still rise to the top. What could be more dramatic than that?

Q: Well, I ...

A: No, button it, Burkett. Nothing is more inspirational than the Chris Jericho story. *Mr. Smith Goes To Washington?* I don't think so. David the bubble boy? Not a chance. A one-legged hemophiliac with a glass eye winning the New York Marathon? Forget it. My story is the only one worth telling!

Q: Believe it or not, Chris, it's been about a year since the last time I interviewed you. Back then, you had just lost your first cruiserweight title to Alex Wright. You were amazingly upbeat and enthusiastic despite the loss. Now all you do is whine and complain. What happened to you?

A: I just wised up to you minions in the press. Everybody always talked about how I was a gentleman, a sportsman, a young man with a lot of promise. Well, promise don't put the pumper in the nickel, Daddy-o. All that praise was another way of saying I was a loser and a wimp. I'm no loser! I'm no wimp! I'm no ...!

Chris Jericho rebounded quickly from his WCW cruiserweight title loss to Juventud Guerrera, a wrestler with whom he has had a long, intense rivalry, to capture the TV belt.

Q: Wait a minute, hold on. Calm down, Chris. Let me get this interview back on course. I almost expected to see you in the NWO Hollywood dressing room, being welcomed into the black and white by your new ally, The Giant.

A: Why does everyone assume that just because The Giant made his presence known in my match a few minutes ago that I'm going to join the NWO? See, "Jolly G" is one of the few people around here who isn't conspiring against me. He saw the way that Harlem hoodlum Stevie Ray was cheating throughout the entire match. He just rectified the situation.

Q: Are you admitting The Giant was responsible for your victory?

A: I'm just giving The Giant credit for being a concerned citizen. Besides, I was just about to overwhelm Stevie with some streetfighting smarts of my own, honed to perfection in the wicked backstreets of Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

Q: I hate to mention this, but do you realize your title victory could be

ruled invalid because of The Giant's interference?

A: What?! I'm only 40 minutes into my glorious reign and the conspirators are plotting already! I should've known! You're part of the conspiracy, aren't you?! Aren't you?!

Q: No, no, no. I'm just posing a question. Let's all take a deep breath. Have you calmed down now?

A: *(Sighs)* Yes.

Q: Since you are the "King Of All Loopholes," I want to present a scenario to you.

A: I prefer to call myself "King Of All Legal Matters, Public And Private," but call me what you will. Present your case.

Q: What if a wrestling champion is injured during a title defense, then drops out of sight without informing the proper executives of his condition. Then his brother appears with the title belt, claiming he is the champion. To prove his point, this brother—let's call him Steve—says that his brother granted him that right via power of attorney. Can this individual be considered a rightful champion?

A: Of course not! That must be the biggest load of baloney ever presented in the annals of jurisprudence! What kind of idiot would try to make that case?

Q: The relevant question is this: What kind of idiot would defeat that idiot and still think he's the TV champ?

A: Look, el jerko. The fact is that I've researched this subject very carefully, and it clearly states in the NWA Wrestling Rulebook, circa 1938, that any competitor who defeats a champion who gained his title by ill-gotten means can lay claim to said championship. That particular addendum actually referred to the NWA radio champion, since any fool knows television didn't exist at that time.

Q: As TV champion, will you continue to twist every minute loophole at your disposal?

A: I don't twist anything! The rules are written in black and white for everyone to read. I don't manipulate; I just follow the rules.

Q: While we're on this subject, you took advantage of a series of loopholes to keep Dean Malenko from the cruiserweight title, a

Jericho claims that Guerrera should simply surrender the cruiserweight title back to him! And he's even offering to give Juvi his mask back (but not because he's a generous man).

When Jericho battles Dean Malenko, the action often spills out of the ring—and even out of the arena! Hey, Chris: What does the rulebook say about this?

Wrestling well against opponents like Malenko (left and above), Jericho believes he has the kind of momentum that nobody in WCW will be able to halt.

championship you held less than 50 hours ago. Will you be able to keep him away from the TV title in the same manner?

A: Who says "Stinko" Malenko will ever get a shot at the TV title? Why doesn't he concentrate on that paper champion, "Hoot 'n' Toot" Guerrera? Dean Malenko should be banned for life, because he violated his sacred oath to be an unbiased official during Saturday's match.

Q: I'm sure you're well-aware that Malenko is still after your hide. How can this feud ever be settled?

A: Malenko should salvage the little tiny sliver of dignity he has left and retire with the rest of the snowbirds down in Tampa, Florida. He has done nothing but insult the memory of his late father, Boris Malenko. And believe me, Boris' memory is checkered enough already.

Q: How dare you say such things about a wrestling legend?

A: You're right. I apologize. Boris isn't late; he's probably just not showing up at all.

Q: All right, let's just change the subject. Do you still want a rematch for the cruiserweight belt—in light of your latest victory?

A: All my Jerichoholics consider me the rightful cruiserweight champion. "Hoot 'n' Toot" should surrender the title to me immediately, then head back to Tijuana. In the meantime, I'll do us all a favor by giving him his mask back. We don't need to see his scary mug.

Q: Assuming you have already done your research, have you discovered any inconsistencies concerning the TV title?

A: I wouldn't call them inconsistencies, just ... curiosities. Can you actually lose the title if you aren't wrestling on television? Shouldn't ring entrances be included in the 10-minute time limit? Doesn't an interruption for a commercial break make the match null and void? Do we account for the precious few seconds lost every leap year? Is the timekeeping based on the Greenwich Clock or the Algerian Department of Scales and Measures?

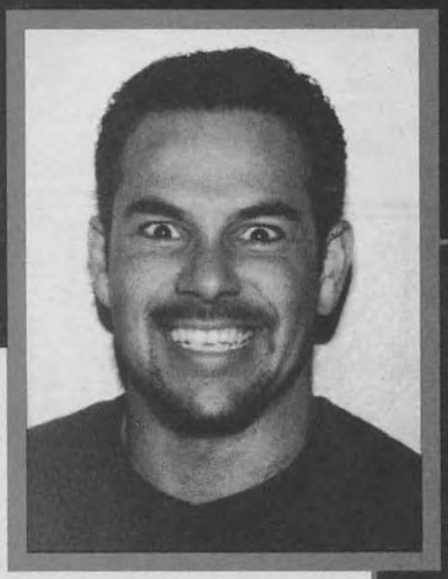
Q: Oh, no. I think we're really in for something now.

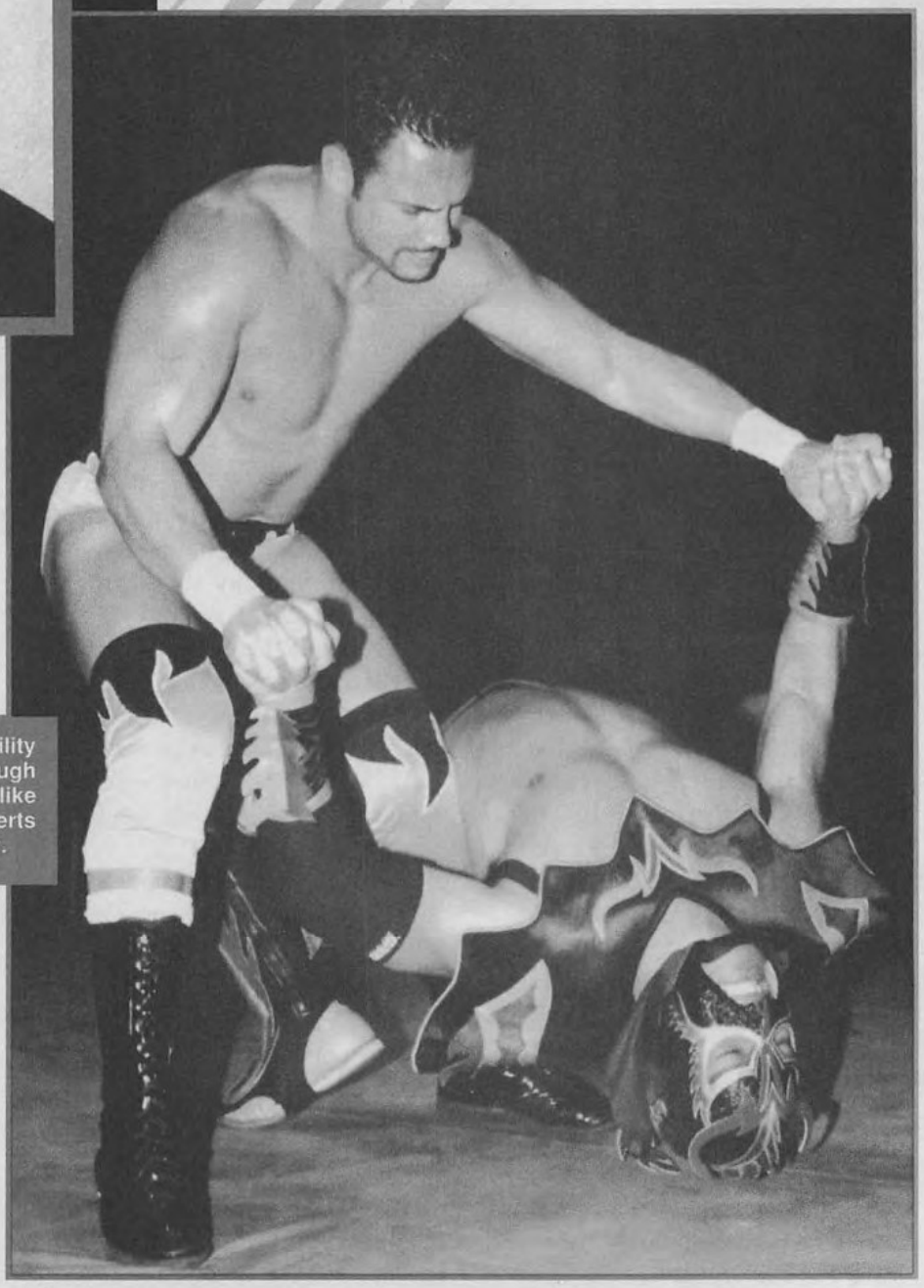
A: You bet your Lifesavers! My Jerichoholics and I are running wild in WCW, and there's nothing that "Stinko" Malenko, "Hoot 'n' Toot" Guerrera, "Sugar" Rey Misterio, or "Jo-Jo" Dillon can do about it! □

X-Ray

THE WRESTLER PANEL EXAMINES

CHAVO GUERRERO JR.





Chavo Guerrero Jr. has the aerial ability to outmaneuver larger foes and enough power to outmuscle cruiserweights like Ultimo Dragon. But some of our experts wonder if he's tough enough mentally.

CAPT. LOU ALBANO

"This Chavo Jr. is one flaky kid, let the Captain tell ya. Believe me, I used to manage The Moondogs, daddy, so I know a crackpot when I see one. And Chavo fits the bill. He's totally out of his mind. But the kid sure can wrestle. He's got a ton of athletic ability and pure wrestling skill. He just needs to stay away from Uncle Eddy and focus on his career. It's a shame the way his uncle screwed up his mind so bad. He's young, so I hope he can recover."

Capt. Lou Albano, "The Guiding Light," has managed 13 different tag teams to a record 17 WWF World tag team titles.

KILLER KOWALSKI

"Let me tell right off the bat that I don't buy into this kid's act! Anybody can hop around on a hobby horse or shave their own head or talk to themselves. That doesn't make you crazy—and it sure as hell doesn't make you a good wrestler. Winning consistently against top-notch competition makes you good, and so far this Chavo Jr. kid has failed to do that. He might have some untapped potential, but I think he has been overrated by a lot of people."

Killer Kowalski, one of the most sadistic rulebreakers in the history of the sport, runs a wrestling school in Malden, Massachusetts.

HARLEY RACE

"The only thing I can say about Chavo Guerrero Jr. is that it would be a crime to see so much talent go to waste if he continues to let his uncle interfere in his career. As a former manager, I would love to have a wrestler with the natural gifts Guererro has. He is cat-quick, nimble, and one of the most athletic wrestlers in WCW. Hopefully he can get it together and get back on the winning track. He just doesn't seem like he's as focused as he should be."

Harley Race, an eight-time NWA World champion, also managed three-time former WCW World champion and current WWF contender Vader.

FABULOUS MOOLAH

"Chavo Guerrero Jr. sure is hard to figure out, darlin'. On the one hand, he has everything necessary for a long and spectacular career—good looks, mat skill, and an impressive repertoire of moves. But on the other hand, he is so unstable and lacks the focus you need to become a winner in this game. Maybe that's why his career has been so up-and-down to this point. Chavo comes from a knowledgeable wrestling family, so maybe they can give him sound advice."

Fabulous Moolah, the finest woman wrestler in history, held the World title for 28 years. She now trains wrestlers in Columbia, South Carolina.

OLE ANDERSON

"Imagine where this kid would have been by now if he had only listened to Uncle Eddy all along. But that's the problem with these young punks today—they think they know everything. They don't pay attention to the veterans. When I was Chavo's age, I listened to the advice my brother Gene gave me. It toughened me up, and I learned a lot. But not Chavo. He tried to ignore Eddy, then he started listening to him, but then he went totally nuts. I can't figure him out."

Ole Anderson, a five-time former NWA World tag team champion and founding member of The Four Horsemen, has been retired for several years.

PAUL ORNDORFF

"Despite all the tough times he's gone through, Chavo still represents the future of WCW. At least I think so. He's young and smart enough to pull through his troubles, and above all else, he is a multitalented wrestler who can do so many things well. Chavo can trade moves with anybody on the mat, and in the air, there aren't too many guys better than him. Sure, he's been sidetracked, but I think you're gonna see him settle down and do some great things soon."

Former WCW TV and World tag team champion Paul Orndorff retired from active competition after suffering a neck injury in December 1995.

from Bell to Bell

By Mike Quackenbush

[Editor's note: Mike Quackenbush, who has held numerous light and junior heavyweight titles throughout the Northeast, files reports every other month on the life of a young wrestler seeking to make an impact on the sport. In this issue, he presents part one of a two-part series on what a typical weekend for an independent wrestler can be like. The second part will appear in the February 1999 issue.]

FRIDAY, 7:00 a.m.: I'm out of bed and off to work. Since wrestling on the independent scene doesn't exactly make me a wealthy man, it is still necessary for me to go to work for at least a half-day before departing for another weekend of wrestling excitement. I make sure to down my usual power breakfast of Raisin Bran and a frosted cherry Pop Tart.

Friday, 12:00 noon: I'm on my way out the door from work to my typically unreliable Hyundai. I have to meet up with Reckless Youth, with whom I frequently travel, near the Pennsylvania Turnpike in about an hour. I think somewhere along the line, fans got the idea that fan favorites only travel with fan favorites, and rulebreakers only travel with rulebreakers. On the independent scene, you travel with whoever is willing to split the gas and tolls with you.

Friday, 1:00 p.m.: As I have been known to do on weekends like these, I park my car along the roadside and leave it such that it appears to have broken down. That way, no one will mess with it until I return for it on Sunday. Or so I hope. The always-punctual Youth arrives on time to pick me up for our four-hour ride to Irwin, which is just outside Pittsburgh. Irwin is the base of operations for Steel City Wrestling, one of a number of promotions for which we both compete.

The conversation between us always takes a familiar path. Reckless likes to bend the rules of the game, while I tend

Mike Quackenbush and Reckless Youth have had themselves a hot rivalry in Northeast independents for some time now. They don't agree on a lot of things, but that doesn't stop them from traveling together to cut down on expenses.

to respect them. He starts first.

"Y'know, Mike, you'd probably win a lot more matches if you knew how to take a few liberties in the ring."

I know all too well what he's getting at. "So you think I should consider cheating a little bit more in my matches? That's what you mean by 'liberties,' right?"

Reckless will argue that it's not cheating unless you're disqualified. I will counter by saying that the game is meant to played by the rules. It's an argument we've had a number of times before ...

Friday, 3:20 p.m.: We elect to stop off for a bite to eat at the Sideling Hill Rest Area, just a little more than halfway to our destination. In the men's room, a tall man in a NASCAR T-shirt keeps staring at me. He finally chimes in. "Hey, there ... I know you." Now I am frightened.

"No, I'm sorry, I don't think so." He does recognize me, though.

"You're that wrassler—'Lightning' Mike somethin'!" *It's always flattering to be recognized,* I think. "You look ... normal," he adds. I have no prepared response for that. I'm not really sure if that's a compliment anyway.

Friday, 5:15 p.m.: Reckless and I arrive at Club X-Treme in Irwin, which hosts Steel City Wrestling shows once or twice a month. I make the rounds, saying hello to the guys I see every time I'm out this way—guys like Christian York and Julio Sanchez. I see them just about every weekend, regardless of the town I'm in. I try to stretch out a bit before doing some warmups in the back when I notice a member of the staff posting the lineup. This is an important moment in any independent locker room.

Once the lineup is posted, everyone flocks to it. When you find out who you're wrestling, it's time to start planning out specific strategies and look for ways to capitalize on your opponent's weaknesses.

It was my expectation that I would be next in line for a SCW junior heavyweight title shot, so I had pretty well figured on facing current champ Christian York. I've known York for a while, and I have a lot of respect for the guy. He's really talented, and I'll be first to give him the credit he deserves. But the bottom line is this: When the contracts are inked, and when the money is there to be won, friendships count for nothing. I would not think twice about throwing down and beating the living tar out of a friend of mine when a title belt and title money hang in the balance. I may have to buy him a drink afterward, but that's the nature of the game we play.

Christian York and Julio Sanchez often wrestle on the same cards and sometimes even wrestle against each other. On this night in Irwin, Pennsylvania, though, York ended up in a three-way match against Youth and Quackenbush, two more guys he frequently runs into at shows.

I approach the lineup with a game plan already in mind. Unfortunately for me, that game plan has to be revised. The promoters decide on a three-way dance for the championship: Christian York vs. Reckless Youth vs. yours truly.

Friday, 6:05 p.m.: The word has spread through the locker room quickly. The tension is building. York, the guy I can't say a bad word about, and Reckless, the guy I travel with, are already having staredown contests. They aren't any friendlier toward me, either. We all know one another's tricks and idiosyncrasies; we have all fought each other countless times before tonight, but never in this particular format.

Then I catch Reckless saying something to Christian. Are they just trash-talking? Is one ripping on the other? Or are they talking about ganging up on me out there? I think I should head over and see what's going on ... but then I think I might just make matters worse. I don't want to get jumped in the back. We're talking about a title match, the main event. It's serious business. Bell time isn't far away ... □

Spot Light ON . . .

BRET HART

WITH BRET HART "loyal" to both NWO Hollywood and Sting (he says), WCW fans aren't sure exactly what the "Hitman" is up to. But one thing is certain: They don't like it. Hart has enraged the fans by injuring several WCW stars—including Chris Benoit, Booker T, and Randy Savage—and attacking fan favorites like Lex Luger and "Diamond" Dallas Page.

The Calgary native is no stranger to the boobirds. After being trained by his father, Stu, Bret made his WWF debut in 1984 as a fan favorite, but he soon turned rule-breaker and teamed with manager Jimmy Hart and brother-in-law Jim Neidhart to form the original Hart Foundation. Bret and Neidhart twice won the WWF World tag title—first from The British Bulldogs on January 26, 1987, then from Demolition at SummerSlam '90.

Hart hit his stride as a singles star in 1991 by beating Curt Hennig for the Intercontinental title at SummerSlam. Bret topped Roddy Piper for his second Intercontinental title at WrestleMania VIII on April 5, 1992, but lost it to Davey Boy Smith—another brother-in-law—at SummerSlam '92.

Hart rebounded to capture the WWF World crown from Ric Flair in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, on October 12, 1992, but lost it to Yokozuna at WrestleMania IX when Mr. Fuji, Yoko's manager, threw salt in his face. Hart won the King of the Ring tournament just two months later and went on to dethrone Yokozuna as WWF champ at WrestleMania X.

Around this time, the "Hitman" was feuding with his brother Owen, Bob Backlund, and Jerry Lawler, and he defeated all three on numerous occasions. Hart also feuded with Diesel (Kevin Nash) and beat him at Survivor Series '95 to win his third World title. He ended up losing that belt to Shawn Michaels at WrestleMania XII.

Hart won his fourth WWF title (it was vacant at the time) by defeating Steve Austin, Vader, and The Undertaker in a four-way elimination match at In Your House on February 16, 1997, but he lost the belt to "Psycho" Sid Vicious one day later.

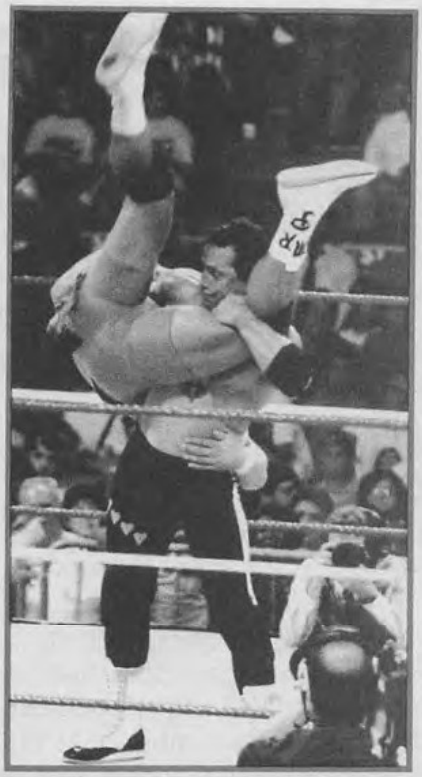
Disillusioned by the debauchery of the WWF and disgusted by the "bloodlust" of the American fans, Hart launched an anti-America campaign and reunited with Owen, Smith, and Neidhart as The New Hart Foundation before defeating The Undertaker for a fifth World title on August 3, 1997.

Hart remained champion until the infamous Survivor Series card on November 9, 1997, in Montreal, where referee Earl Hebner declared that Hart had submitted to Shawn Michaels' "sharpshooter" when it was clear that he had not. Enraged that he had been "set up" by Vince McMahon, Hart slugged the WWF owner in the dressing room after the match, then headed to WCW a few weeks later, where he eventually made some enemies by challenging demigod Ric Flair.

Hart further angered fans by helping Hollywood Hogan beat Randy Savage for the World title in April, then by beating Page for the U.S. belt. But whether you like him or not, you must admit that Bret Hart is both a terrific wrestler and a consistent winner. That's why he's featured in our "Spotlight."

March 1987: The original Hart Foundation—Bret Hart, Jimmy Hart, Danny Davis, and Jim Neidhart—appear at a press conference prior to WrestleMania III. Bret and Neidhart won the WWF World tag team title twice.

August 1991: Hart solidified his reputation as a terrific technical wrestler in his matches with WWF I-C champ Curt Hennig. He beat Hennig for the title at SummerSlam '91.



June 1994: One of Bret's most memorable feuds was with his brother Owen. Owen earned a few victories, but Bret dominated their series of matches. The two are currently on good terms.

March 1994: WWF World champ Yokozuna was in control of his return match against Hart at WrestleMania X until he missed with his "banzai" splash. The "Hitman" rolled up Yoko for the pin and his second WWF World title.

November 1997: In one of the most controversial title changes ever, Hart "submitted" to Shawn Michaels' "sharpshooter" after a grueling bout. Actually, Vince McMahon just wanted to be sure Hart didn't take the WWF belt to WCW.

June 1998: Hart forces Savage to submit to his "sharpshooter" at this year's Great American Bash. After moving to WCW, Hart mysteriously sided with NWO Hollywood. No wonder WCW fans despise him.

Scrapbook

Explore with us the rich history of this great sport as we recall the important news stories at five–year intervals dating back a quarter of a century

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1973

"Golden Greek" John Tolos pummels a bloody Victor Rivera. Their feud in 1973 was so bloody that doctors appealed to both wrestlers to lighten up.

THE WWF EXPERIENCED a major shakeup as its two major titles changed hands ... Heartpunch expert Stan Stasiak dethroned WWF champion Pedro Morales on December 1 at the Philadelphia Arena, ending Pedro's 22-month title reign. Stasiak held the championship only one week before being beaten by former champion Bruno Sammartino in Madison Square Garden ... Tony Garea regained a share of the WWF tag team championship with a new partner, Dean Ho. Garea and Haystacks Calhoun had lost the belts to Mr. Fuji and Toru Tanaka on September 11. After a month of training, Garea and Ho were granted a non-title match on television by the Japanese champions, which they won. Then on November 14, Garea and Ho won the title ... Rookie referee Bobby Lane was attacked by Cyclone Negro during Negro's match with Dario Romero. The ref was bodyslammed and piledrived by the wrestler ... The West Coast feud between "The Golden Greek" John Tolos and Victor Rivera continued. Doctors warned both wrestlers that their brutal bloodbaths would not only ruin their careers, but also their lives ... After firing Miss Sherri, Bobby Shane, in conjunction with THE WRESTLER, ran a contest to find a new valet. The winner: Mary Davidson of Savannah, Georgia ... A bloody Russian chain match punctuated a brutal Florida feud between Boris Malenko and Dusty Rhodes.

Stan Stasiak, posing with The Grand Wizard, won the WWF championship from Pedro Morales on December 1, 1973, in Philadelphia. Stasiak held the title for just one week, though.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Jack Brisco; 2—Terry Funk; 3—Paul Jones; 4—Dory Funk; 5—The Sheik; 6—Pat Patterson; 7—Gene Kiniski; 8—Dutch Savage; 9—Harley Race; 10—Tim Woods.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Verne Gagne; 2—Superstar Billy Graham; 3—Crusher; 4—Ray Stevens; 5—Billy Robinson; 6—Wahoo McDaniel; 7—Ivan Koloff; 8—Nick Bockwinkel; 9—Red Bastien; 10—Ken Patera.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bruno Sammartino; 2—Pedro Morales; 3—Chief Jay Strongbow; 4—Stan Stasiak, 5—Don Leo Jonathan; 6—Nikolai Volkoff; 7—Blackjack Lanza; 8—Gorilla Monsoon; 9—Tony Garea; 10—Dean Ho.

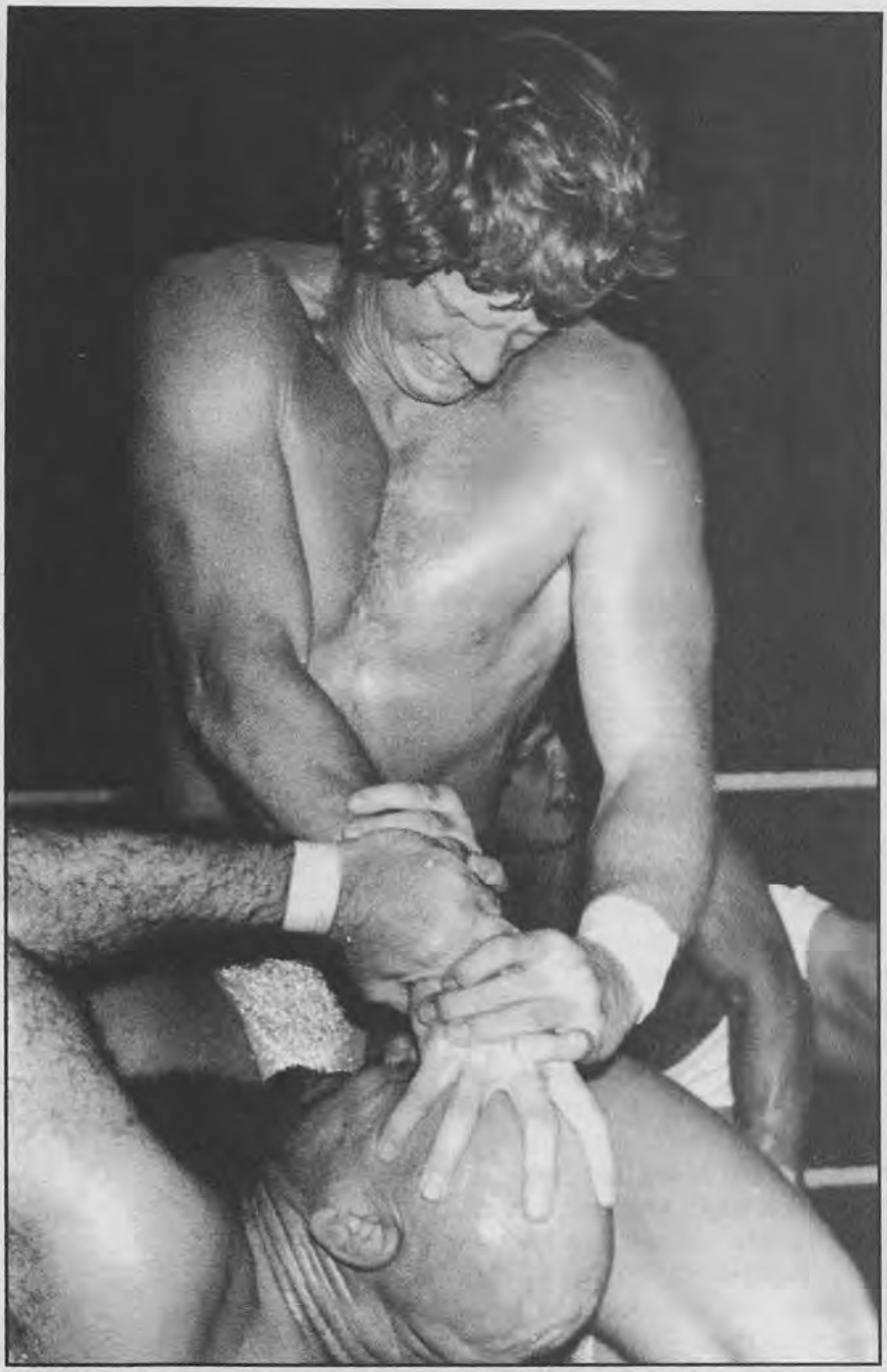
TAG TEAMS: 1—Tony Marino

& Fred Curry; 2—Dean Ho & Tony Garea; 3—Bruno Sammartino & Bruiser; 4—The Fabulous Kangaroos; 5—Dutch Savage & Jimmy Snuka; 6—Bobby Shane & Gorgeous George Jr.; 7—The LeDuc Brothers; 8—Lord Al Hays & Roger Kirby; 9—Mike George & Jim Brunzell; 10—Victor Rivera & Raul Mata.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1978

AWA CHAMPION NICK Bockwinkel warned Jim Brunzell that his association with Verne and Greg Gagne would ruin his professional wrestling career ... WWF President Willie Gilzenberg died at age 77 ... For the first time in his career, Andre the Giant demanded a title shot. NWA World champion Harley Race said he would consider it ... Former WWF champion Superstar Billy Graham trained for a match against Missouri State titlist Dick the Bruiser ... David and Kevin Von Erich established a loyal following in St. Louis as they began appearing at the Kiel Auditorium in singles and tag team competition ... Jimmy Snuka, appearing in the Mid-Atlantic area, expressed a desire to wrestle for Ric Flair's U.S. title ... Tag team partners Rick Steamboat and Paul Jones split up after they found themselves to be the last two men in the ring during a battle royal. Steamboat wanted to split the prize money, but Jones wanted it all, so the two fought for the prize. Jones bloodied Steamboat, spit on him, then left the ring ... The Masked Superstar extended newly crowned Georgia champion Mr. Wrestling II to a one-hour, time-limit draw.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Harley Race; 2—Dusty Rhodes; 3—Ric Flair; 4—Ken Patera; 5—Dick Slater; 6—Mr. Wrestling II; 7—Rick Steamboat; 8—Jack Brisco; 9—Bruiser; 10—Gino Hernandez.



David and Kevin Von Erich were very popular in St. Louis in 1978. Kevin, David (pictured), and younger brother Kerry all held the Missouri State title at one time.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Billy Robinson; 3—Verne Gagne; 4—Crusher; 5—Greg Gagne; 6—Jim Brunzell; 7—Ray Stevens; 8—Pat Patterson; 9—Super Destroyer II; 10—Bobby Duncum.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Bob Backlund; 2—Greg Valentine; 3—Peter Maivia; 4—Ivan Koloff; 5—Dusty Rhodes; 6—Ivan Putski; 7—Ernie Ladd; 8—Chief Jay Strongbow; 9—Victor Rivera; 10—Spiros Arion.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Pat Patterson & Ray Stevens; 2—Greg Valentine & Baron Von Raschke; 3—Tony Garea & Larry Zbyszko; 4—The Valiant Brothers; 5—Dory Funk Jr. & Terry Funk; 6—Greg Gagne & Jim Brunzell; 7—Kevin & David Von Erich; 8—Pak Song & Mr. Uganda; 9—Black Gordman & Goliath; 10—Victor Rivera & Spiros Arion.

Money came between tag team partners Rick Steamboat and Paul Jones in 1978. They ended up squaring off for prize money when they were the last two left in a battle royal.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1983

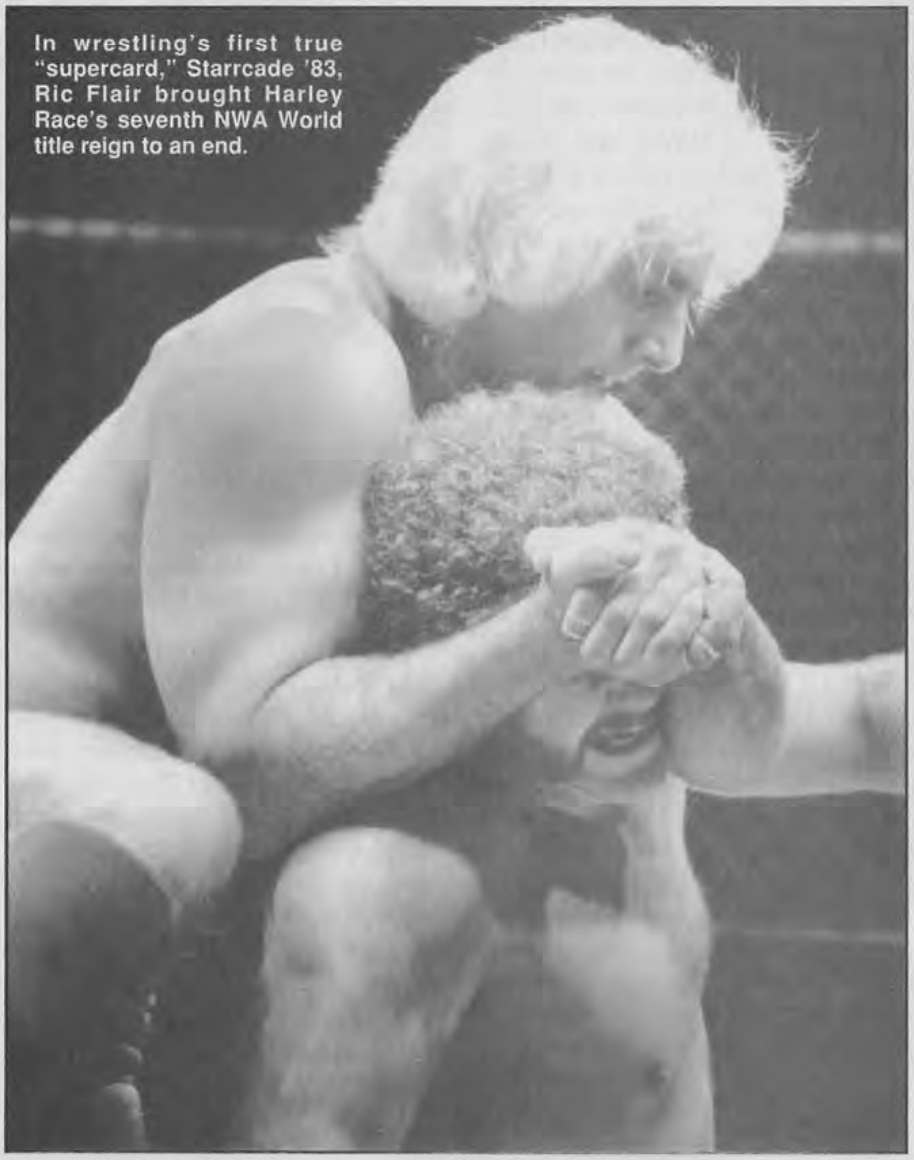
RIC FLAIR ENDED Harley Race's seventh NWA World title reign with a pinfall victory on Thanksgiving night (November 24) at Starrcade '83 in Greensboro, North Carolina, the first of the big supercards that would later include WrestleMania and the Von Erich Parade of Champions. It was also the first time that the NWA title changed hands in a cage. Also on the card, Rick Steamboat and Jay Youngblood recaptured the NWA World tag team belts from Jack and Jerry Brisco ... In other Thanksgiving spectaculars, Pez Whatley and Butch Reed defeated Randy Savage and Magnum T.A. in the final of a $25,000 tag team tournament at The Omni in Atlanta, and Kerry Von Erich forced Michael Hayes out of Texas for one year by pinning him at the "Star Wars" card in Dallas ... The Iron Sheik won the WWF World title from Bob Backlund on December 26 in Madison Square Garden. Backlund's manager, Arnold Skaaland, threw in the towel as Backlund was caught in the Sheik's dreaded camel clutch ... There was a another WWF title change, this on November 15, as Rocky Johnson and Tony Atlas won the tag team title from The Samoans in Allentown, Pennsylvania ... December was a big month for Dick Slater: He won the Mid-Atlantic title from Rufus R. Jones on December 3 and the U.S. belt from Greg Valentine on December 14 ... Kevin Sullivan threw a bottle of ink at Dusty Rhodes' sister as Dusty was preparing to sign for a title match against Ric Flair. Sullivan, who had been banned from wrestling in Florida, was subsequently banned from two other areas, but the vengeful Dusty demanded that the ban be lifted, saying he wouldn't wrestle again until it was.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Dick Slater; 3—Ted DiBiase; 4—David Von Erich; 5—Mike Rotundo; 6—Harley Race; 7—Ron Bass; 8—Greg Valentine; 9—Carlos Colon; 10—Chris Adams.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Nick Bockwinkel; 2—Dick Slater; 3—Ted DiBiase; 4—Brad Rheingans; 5—Mr. Saito; 6—Ken Patera; 7—Blackjack Lanza; 8—Jerry Lawler; 9—Superstar Graham; 10—Crusher Blackwell.

WWF RATINGS: 1—The Iron Sheik; 2—Bob Backlund; 3—Magnificent Muraco; 4—Paul Orndorff; 5—Jimmy Snuka; 6—Masked Superstar; 7—Tito Santana; 8—Sgt. Slaughter; 9—Rocky Johnson; 10—Tony Atlas.

TAG TEAMS: 1—Rick Steam-



In wrestling's first true "supercard," Starrcade '83, Ric Flair brought Harley Race's seventh NWA World title reign to an end.

The Iron Sheik ended Bob Backlund's WWF title reign on December 26, 1983. Backlund's manager, Arnold Skaaland, threw in the towel after Sheik clamped on his camel clutch. Backlund's back had been injured by Sheik in the days leading up to the title match.

boat & Jay Youngblood; 2—Ken Patera & Crusher Blackwell; 3—The Von Erichs; 4—Brett & Buzz Sawyer; 5—Dusty Rhodes & Blackjack Mulligan; 6—Rocky Johnson & Tony Atlas; 7—Mr. Wrestling II & Magnum T.A.; 8—Steve Keirn & Stan Lane; 9—Tony Parisi & Gino Brito; 10—The Masked Medics.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1988

NWA WORLD TAG team champions The Road Warriors, along with manager Paul Ellering, established themselves as the most hated duo in the sport when they intentionally injured the right eye of Dusty Rhodes. Rhodes had challenged Animal during a TV taping, but Hawk quickly came to his aid, allowing Animal to use a spike on "The American Dream" ... Wendi Richter defeated Madusa Miceli for the AWA World Women's title on November 26 in Bloomington, Minnesota ... Sid Vicious broke 17-year-old Jamie Dundee's neck at a CWA TV taping. Several weeks later, on December 10, Vicious defeated Brian Lee for the CWA title ... Lex Luger pinned NWA World champ Ric Flair in two successive tag team matches. Flair, however, pinned Luger at Starrcade '88 in December. Flair had his feet on the ropes for extra leverage ... A crafty Ronnie Garvin defeated Carlos Colon for the WWC Universal title on Thanksgiving night in Puerto Rico ... The Powers of Pain won the tag team portion of the WWF Survivor Series ... Elizabeth contemplated leaving wrestling because of the friction she had caused between Hulk Hogan and "Macho Man" Randy Savage ... AWA World champion Jerry Lawler defeated a bloody Kerry Von Erich at SuperClash III on December 13 to win the World Class heavyweight belt ... Former WWF World champ Bob Backlund was teaching physical education and coaching the wrestling team at a Connecticut high school ... Missy Hyatt, then the wife of Eddie Gilbert, defeated Fantasy in Texas ... American patriot Sgt. Slaughter was engaged in a vicious feud with Col. DeBeers ... Bruno Sammartino and Capt. Lou Albano co-hosted a night of wrestling in White Plains, New York. All the proceeds went to the Multiple Sclerosis Society.

NWA RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Barry Windham; 3—Lex Luger; 4—Sting; 5—Eddie Gilbert; 6—Bam Bam Bigelow; 7—Rick Steiner; 8—Dusty Rhodes; 9—Junkyard Dog; 10—Mike Rotundo.

AWA RATINGS: 1—Jerry Lawler; 2—Greg Gagne; 3—Kerry Von Erich; 4—Wahoo McDaniel; 5—Sgt. Slaughter; 6—Iron Sheik; 7—Rick Steiner; 8—Col. DeBeers; 9—Dutch Mantel; 10—Manny Fernandez.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Randy Savage; 2—Ultimate Warrior; 3—Bad News Brown; 4—Hulk Hogan; 5—Big Bossman; 6—Andre the Giant; 7—The Honky Tonk Man; 8—Hacksaw Duggan; 9—Ted DiBiase; 10—King Haku.

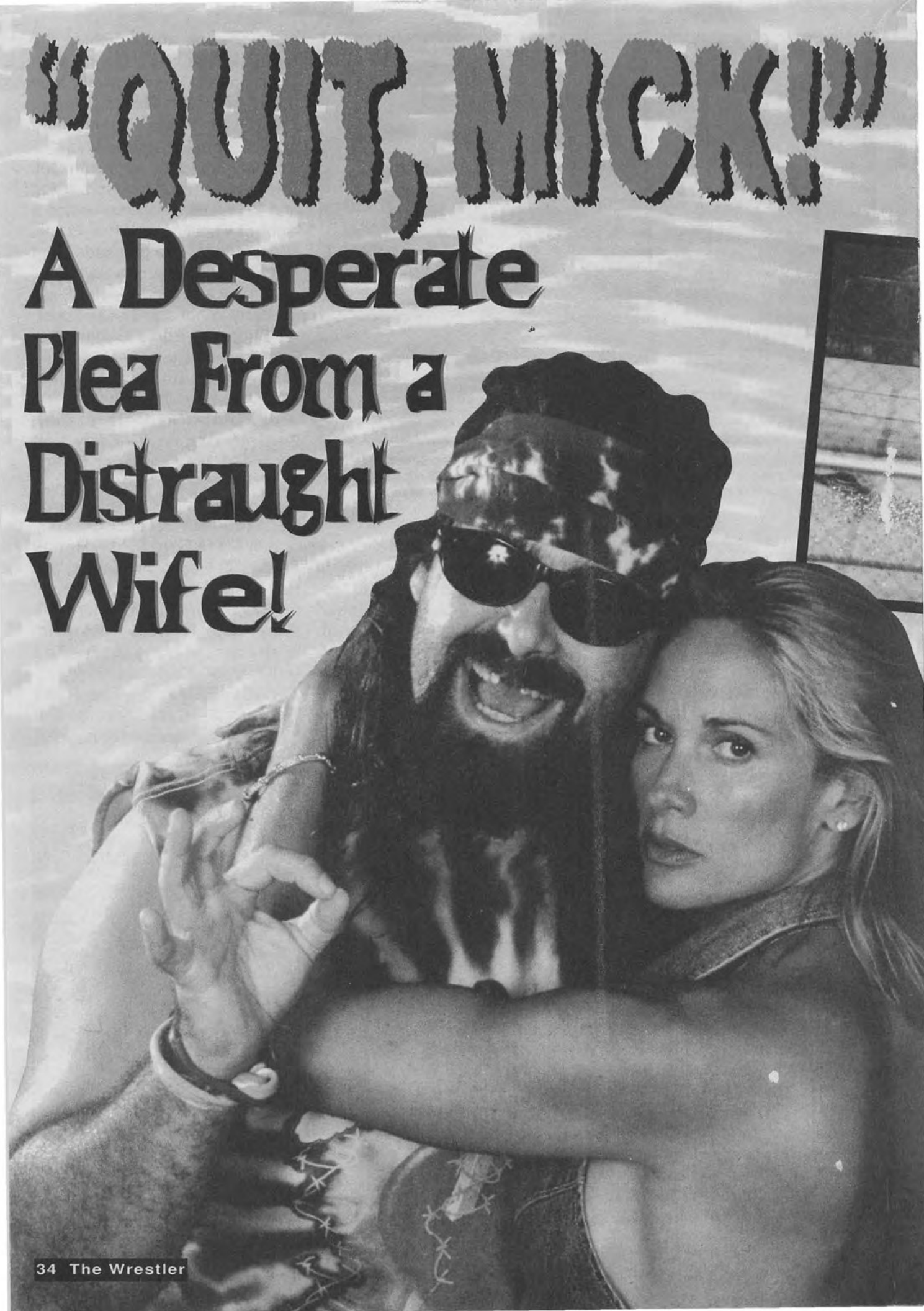
TAG TEAMS: 1—The Road Warriors; 2—Demolition; 3—Pat

(Continued on page 57)

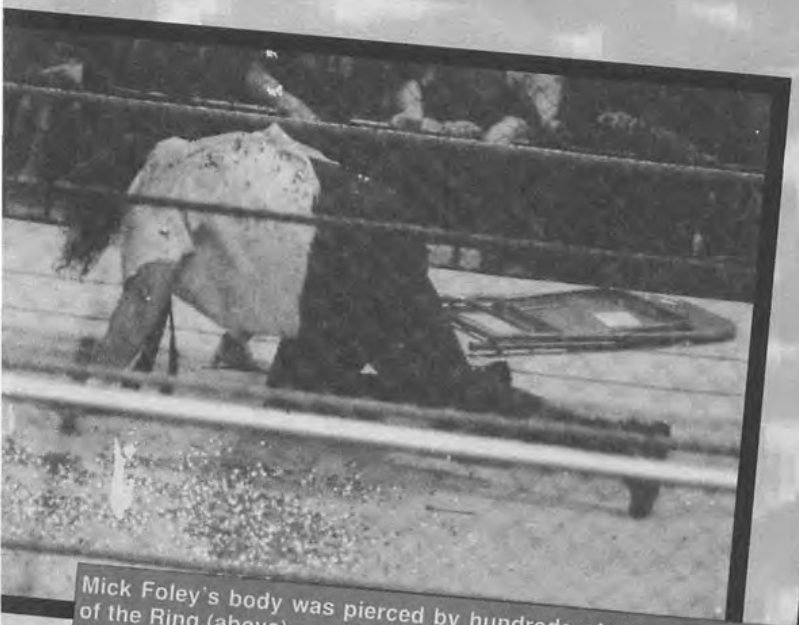
NWA tag team champs The Road Warriors work over Dusty Rhodes' right eye with a spike at an NWA TV taping. Dusty made the mistake of challenging Animal on camera.

"QUIT, MICK!"

A Desperate Plea From a Distraught Wife!



A wrestler's life can be very tough. But what about the life of a wrestler's *wife?* Collette Foley, the wife of Mick and his various personae, thinks her husband should consider a long-deserved retirement. In this exclusive feature, Mrs. Foley pleads her heartfelt case



Mick Foley's body was pierced by hundreds of thumbtacks at King of the Ring (above)—and that was *after* he took one horrific fall from the roof of a steel cage (right) and another through the roof. And what about all those gruesome matches he has had in Japan (below)? None of this is easy for Collette to watch.

By Collette Foley

I'LL NEVER FORGET his eyes. They weren't threatening or menacing, nor did they seem particularly compassionate. His eyes just exuded an energy I couldn't comprehend.

The 275-pound guy with tangled brown hair and a scruffy beard had glanced my way while handing out flyers for an upcoming wrestling card at Long Island's Riverhead Race Track. A few minutes later, he had a woman friend of his approach me and ask if it was okay for him to talk to me.

"Cactus Jack would like to talk to you," she said to me.

Surprised, I asked, "Who's Captain Jack?" Once I realized she was talking about the man with the penetrating eyes, I agreed to the meeting.

Mick Foley and I were married a year later.

We now have two wonderful children. Dewey, 6, and Noelle, 4, idolize their father. I have retired from my 14-year

Just imagine how you would feel if you saw someone whom you love thrown into a bed of nails!

modeling career with the Wilhelmina Agency of New York and now savor every moment I have as a stay-at-home mom. Likewise, Mick has a very balanced perspective of life that enables him to truly appreciate the love of his family. That's a rare characteristic for someone who has achieved his level of success.

And all of us have enjoyed that success. Dewey loves watching him on television and even practices various holds and maneuvers in the "wrestling room" of our Florida home. Noelle was a "Dude Love girl" at a few arena shows this year. Even I got in on the act by becoming one of his "Dudettes."

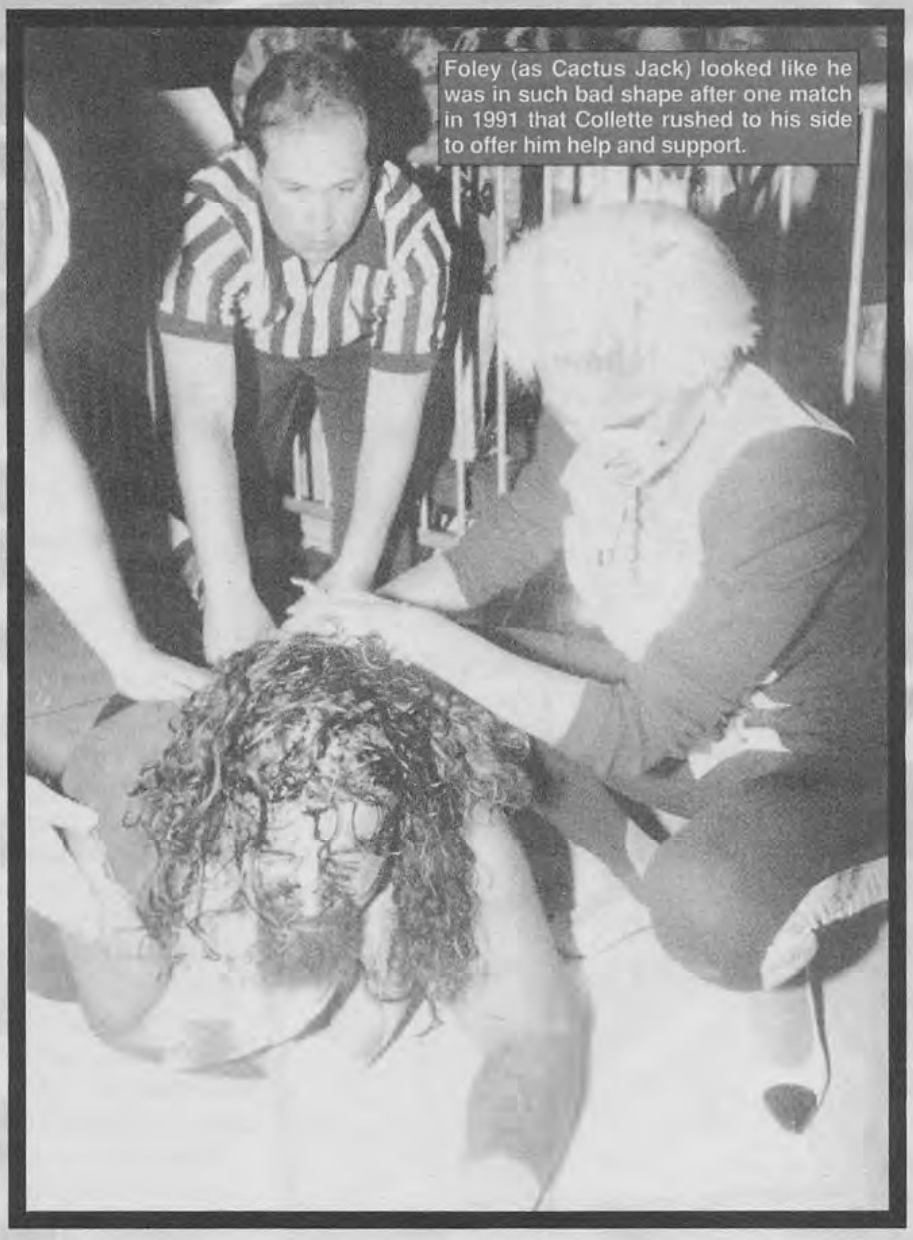
But there is a dark side.

That dark side appears every time Mick comes home limping, aching, and fighting chronic pain. Every wrestler puts his body on the line. But as most fans know, Mankind/Dude Love/Cactus Jack crosses the boundaries of everyday risk. He is determined to make his next match a greater spectacle than his last.

A few years ago, Mick would go on extended tours of Japan and compete in barbed-wire matches, thumbtack matches, fire matches, and other dangerous specialty matches. Mick once came home from a tour that lasted about two weeks. As usual, the kids and I ran to the door to greet him. I wrapped my arms around Mick for a big hug, then stepped back and asked, "Do you smell something burning?" With a half-smile, Mick rolled up his sleeve to reveal charred flesh along the length of his arm.

He had wrestled in a match with small explosives attached to the four corners of the ring. One of the explosions caught Mick off-guard, and he had several new scars to remind him of the experience.

The frequency and severity of his injuries have increased over the past couple of years. Multiple concussions, usually resulting from chair shots to the head, have



Foley (as Cactus Jack) looked like he was in such bad shape after one match in 1991 that Collette rushed to his side to offer him help and support.

As Mick absorbs chair shots (above left) and "Stone-Cold stunners" (above right) from Steve Austin, his wife can't help but cringe. She has seen him get injured too many times.

affected his motor skills. Mick sometimes slurs his words, loses his train of thought, and has a poor sense of direction. This kind of deterioration is often seen in fortysomething boxers. Mick is only 33 years old.

On those rare occasions when Mick has time off, I no longer ask him to do chores around the house. More often than not, Mick has only a precious few days to convalesce and get ready to hit the road again. It's staggering when I think of the thousands and thousands of miles Mick drives every year, along with all the time he spends riding in airplanes. That in itself is a tremendous risk.

I realize Mick loves his job, and he always hides the physical pain with a brave face. I have refused to complain about the way Mick earns a living.

Until now.

The worst day of my life was June 28, 1998. That was the date of Mankind's "Hell In A Cell" match against The Undertaker at King of the Ring. I was prepared for a brutal contest. The Undertaker was wrestling with a broken ankle, and Mick was nursing several injuries. The more punishment he took, the more I winced. As I watched the event on pay-per-view TV at home, I tried to remain calm for my children's sake.

But I couldn't hide my distress when The Undertaker forced Mick off the top of the cage and through the announcer's table. It took a long time for Mick to get up. When he returned to the ring, I noticed his arm hung like a wet noodle. Later, I learned Mick's right shoulder had been dislocated.

Then came the 15-foot fall through the roof of the cage and onto the canvas. Every fan in the arena gasped as Mick plummeted through the air, landing partly on his head. Mick has no recollection of the rest of the match. Physically, he was a human wreck. The Undertaker won. I was just glad the torment was finally over.

Paramedics and WWF officials rushed Mick backstage. I was frantic. For two hours, I tried desperately to find out the physical condition of my husband. I didn't even know for sure whether Mick was alive or dead.

Besides the dislocated shoulder, several of Mick's bottom teeth had been knocked out. Some had ripped through the skin below his lower lip. Another tooth had been jammed through the top of his mouth and came out of his nostril. In addition to suffering a concussion, he had a bruised kidney, two cracked ribs, and hundreds of tiny holes in his skin created by all the thumbtacks he had spread around the ring a few minutes prior to the conclusion of the bout.

Still, he took only a few days off before resuming his hectic schedule.

Do I hate Mick's profession? No. If Dewey, or even Noelle for that matter, ever pursues a wrestling career, I would encourage him to the fullest. Do I think Mick should reconsider his career options? Definitely. The WWF and wrestling in general have been very good to him. But I'm afraid Mick will take another horrific spill—and won't be able to walk away.

Now is the time to think about quitting, Mick. While you still have a choice. □

WRESTLERS &

What's To Come And What Could Have Been

By Steve Anderson

CELEBRITY INVOLVEMENT in pro wrestling reached its peak in the 1980s, as Andy Kaufman mocked Jerry Lawler, Cyndi Lauper managed Wendi Richter, and Mr. T wrestled Roddy Piper. Lately, some other famous "outsiders" have gotten involved. WCW's Bash at the Beach featured non-wrestlers Karl Malone, Dennis Rodman, and Kevin Greene.

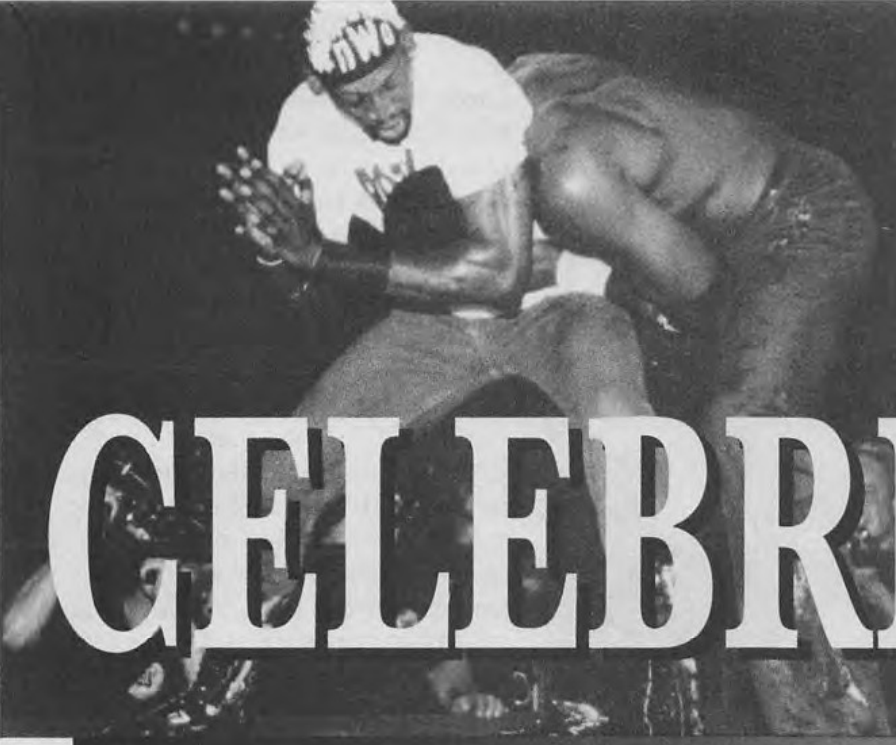
Road Wild's main event saw *Tonight Show* host Jay Leno and "Diamond" Dallas Page—with *Tonight Show* bandleader Kevin Eubanks in their corner—defeat Hollywood Hogan and Eric Bischoff.

Prior to the 1980s, it would have been unheard of for sports stars (with the exception of boxers) and celebrities to be so involved in wrestling. But what if they had? What if famed stars of the 1940s, '50s, '60s, and '70s found a reason to step through the ropes? Looking into the future, what matchups do we have to look forward to? Those of us at THE WRESTLER decided to take those "what ifs" and create some celebrity vs. wrestling personality dream matches.

LOU THESZ vs. GROUCHO MARX

Groucho Marx, host of *You Bet Your Life,* was entertaining audiences with his running gag on professional wrestling. He would intersperse various derogatory comments on the sport while ad-libbing with his guests. He even went so far as to put a wrestling tunic and a dunce cap on his famous "secret word" duck.

Weary of Marx's sardonic humor, Lou Thesz made sure he was in the audience when Marx went off on his latest diatribe. With his NWA World title belt slung



Jay Leno vs. Hulk Hogan (opposite page)? Fairly entertaining. Dennis Rodman vs. Karl Malone (left)? Not bad. But we could come up with some better matches involving celebrities.

CELEBRITIES

Lou Thesz vs. Bob Orton Sr. (below)—long-time fans might remember how competitive their matches were. Could Groucho Marx (right) have presented a real challenge to Thesz? *Very* doubtful.

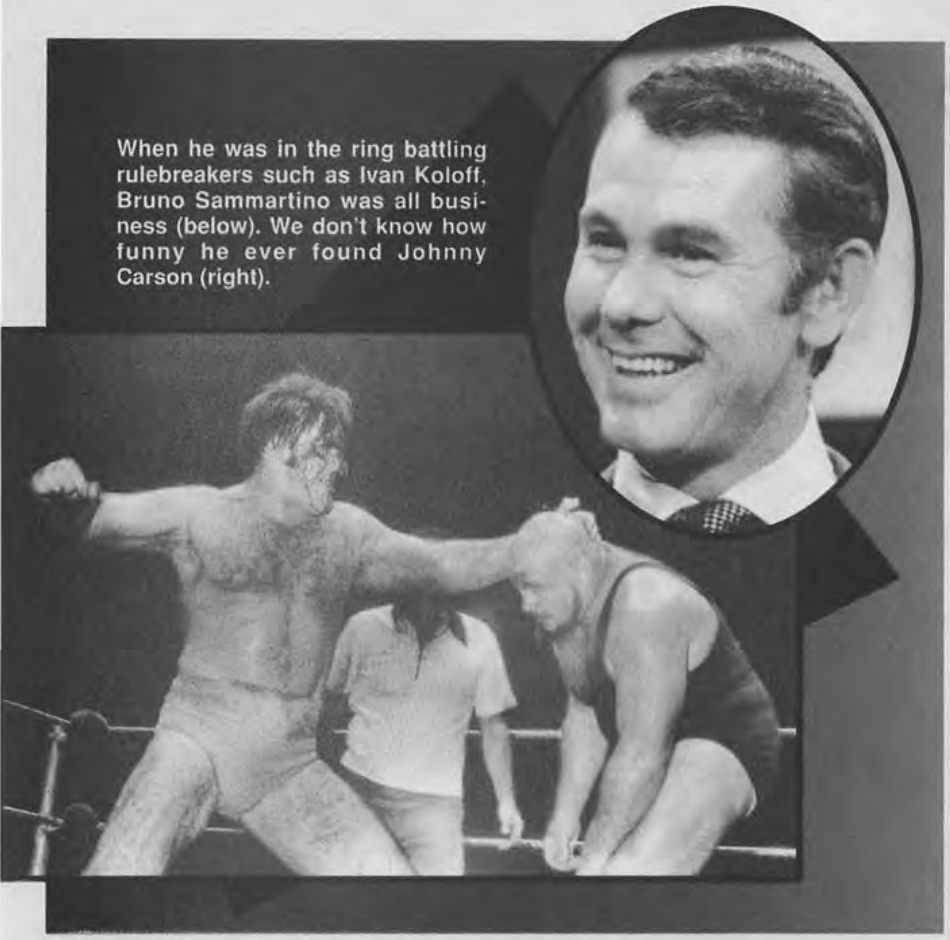
over his shoulder, Thesz walked toward the stage, much to the chagrin of the producers. Never one to back down himself, Marx immediately made Thesz the butt of his jokes. Thesz challenged Marx to a match to prove that he and his fraternity should be taken seriously.

The Kiel Auditorium was the site for the historic meeting. Thesz stood in the ring, awaiting his opponent. Out walked Marx with his brothers to the musical strains of "Captain Spaulding." The bout was a farce, as Marx never stayed in the ring long enough for Thesz to execute any wrestling hold. Harpo and Chico caused great disruption by running into the ring and distracting Thesz. Finally, after 20 minutes of what was essentially a non-match, the referee called for a disqualification of the Marx brothers.

But Groucho never made fun of wrestling on his show again.

BRUNO SAMMARTINO vs. JOHNNY CARSON

Bruno Sammartino was invited to be a guest on *The Tonight Show With Johnny Carson*. Carson already had a full slate of guests for that show, however, and ran out of time, so the WWF champ was rescheduled for the following night. When that night came, Sammartino was relegated to the end of the program and thus had less than two minutes to speak with Carson. Carson used every second of Bruno's time mocking Sammartino's look and profession. The real problems started when Sammartino shoved Carson out of his chair and bear-hugged Ed McMahon.



When he was in the ring battling rulebreakers such as Ivan Koloff, Bruno Sammartino was all business (below). We don't know how funny he ever found Johnny Carson (right).

Fans packed Madison Square Garden to watch the wrestler face the comedian. Carson shocked the masses by coming out with Sammartino nemesis George "The Animal" Steele as his second. As Carson did his famous golf stroke in the middle of the ring, Sammartino came up from behind and executed a textbook backdrop. The match was over in seconds.

JERRY LAWLER vs. ELVIS PRESLEY

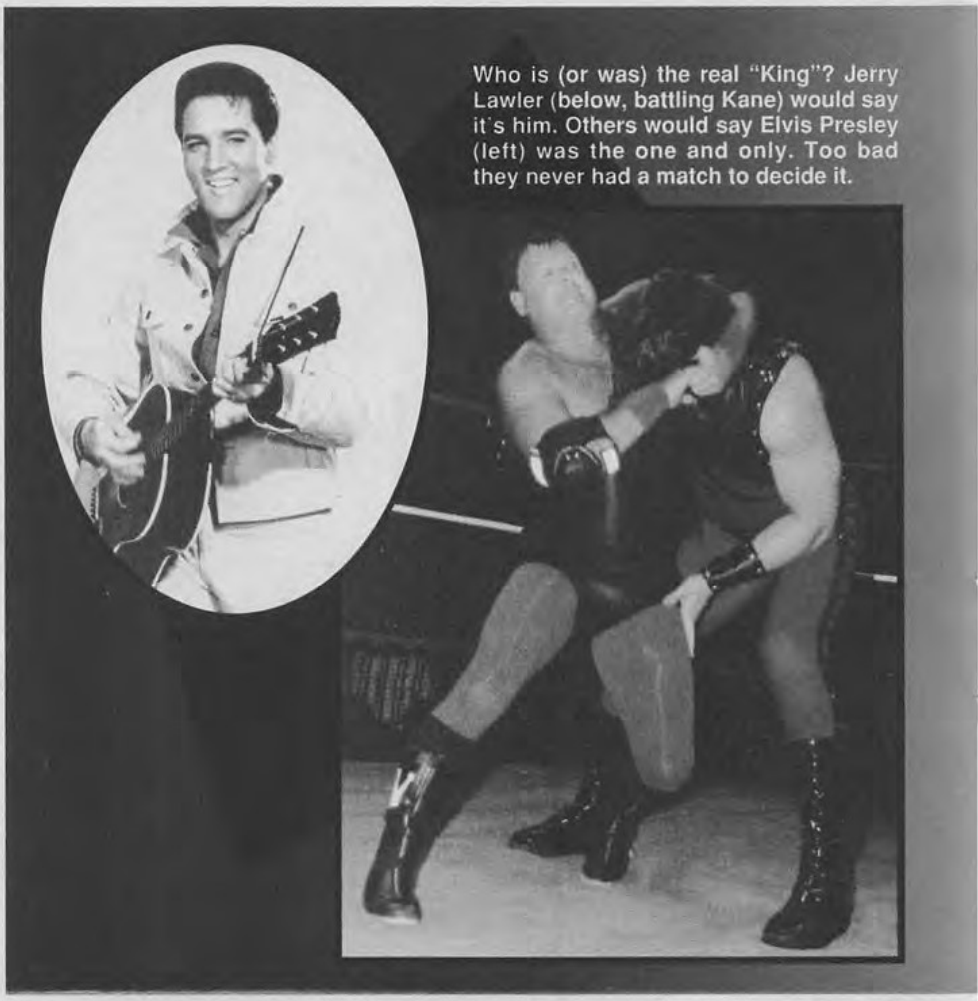
Long before Andy Kaufman invaded his territory, a young Jerry Lawler confronted Elvis Presley at the Sahara in Las Vegas during a concert. Lawler informed Presley that there was only one "King Of Memphis," and he wanted to prove that to Presley. Without provocation, Lawler made his point by blindsiding Presley with his crown and wrapping a microphone cord around the singing legend's neck.

Presley wanted to gain a measure of revenge, so he paid off Lawler's opponent one night at the Mid-South Coliseum. As Lawler stood under the bright lights, he demanded that his opponent emerge. Then he issued an open challenge. Out walked Presley.

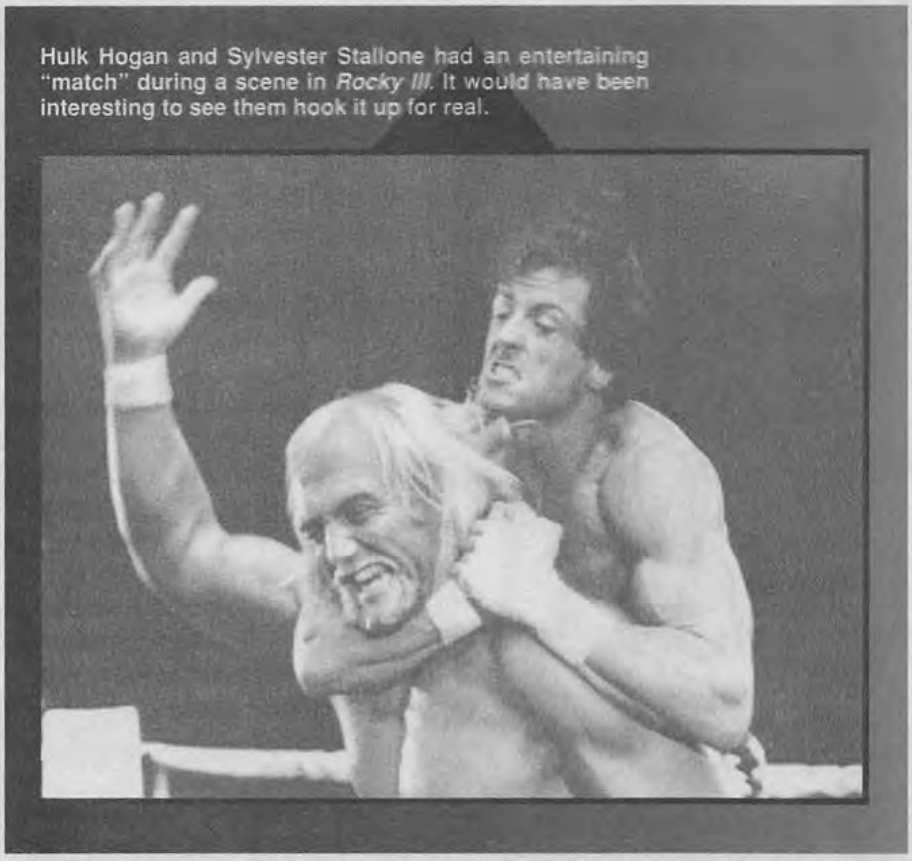
The two "Kings" stood face-to-face. Lawler threw a punch. Presley blocked it and threw a karate chop that struck Lawler in the throat. Lawler tried a headlock, but Presley tripped him down to the mat. Soon Presley had momentum, as his chops and punches rained down on Lawler. One savate kick later, Presley was crowned the victor as he sent Lawler to the "Heartbreak Hotel."

HULK HOGAN vs. SYLVESTER STALLONE

Rocky III was having its grand premiere as Hulk Hogan tried to dominate the spotlight, claiming that he, "Thunderlips," was the true star of the movie. He attempt-



Who is (or was) the real "King"? Jerry Lawler (below, battling Kane) would say it's him. Others would say Elvis Presley (left) was the one and only. Too bad they never had a match to decide it.



Hulk Hogan and Sylvester Stallone had an entertaining "match" during a scene in *Rocky III*. It would have been interesting to see them hook it up for real.

ed to start a filibuster in front of the throng of reporters covering the event. The real star, Sylvester Stallone, was growing weary of Hogan's egomaniacal delusions and tried to persuade Hogan to leave the podium. Hogan refused, so the two got into a shoving match. Hogan threw out the challenge, claiming that while he could enter the movie world and dominate, Stallone could not do the same when it came to wrestling.

The Met Center in Bloomington, Minnesota, was the site of the first AWA "supercard" featuring Hogan vs. Stallone. Hogan was joined by his manager, Johnny Valiant, while Stallone ironically selected Mr. T, who played his arch-rival in *Rocky III*. They faced off in mid-ring. Reality was now imitating art.

Stallone bobbed and weaved, throwing rabbit punches in an effort to tire Hogan. But Hogan was faster than everyone anticipated, and he soon caught up with Stallone and hiptossed him all over the ring. After 10 minutes of domination, Hogan taunted Mr. T to enter the ring. Letting his temper get the best of him, Mr. T charged in and struck Hogan with a chair. The bell rang. Stallone was immediately disqualified.

SPICE GIRLS vs. NITRO GIRLS

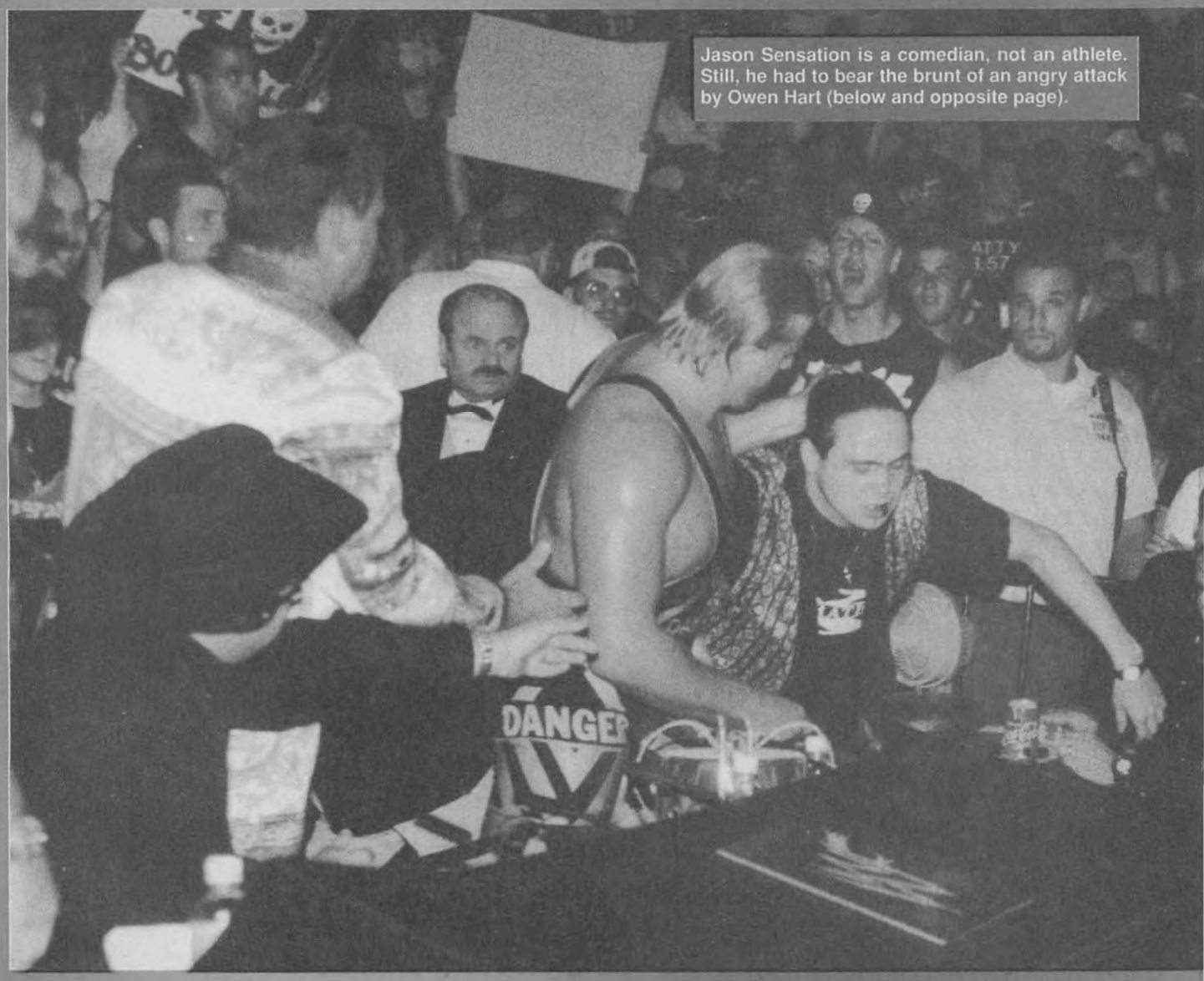
A lingerie battle royal was set to decide who had more "Girl Power." The stipulation was simple: Whichever team could strip every member of the opposing team down to their skimpy undergarments would be declared the winner. The crowd, especially the male faction, watched the battle intently as Baby Spice and Chae tore into each other, while Kimberly and Scary Spice rolled around the ring.

The end came when referee Nick Patrick was shoved outside the ring and rendered unconscious. Through the crowd came Ginger Spice ... wearing a *Nitro* Girls outfit. She sneak-attacked all of her former comrades and stripped them down to their unmentionables. Eyes bugged out. Censors needed to be revived. The *Nitro* Girls won and, in the process, recruited a new member. □

All we can say about a potential match between the *Nitro* Girls (below) and Spice Girls (right) is that it would attract a *huge* male audience.

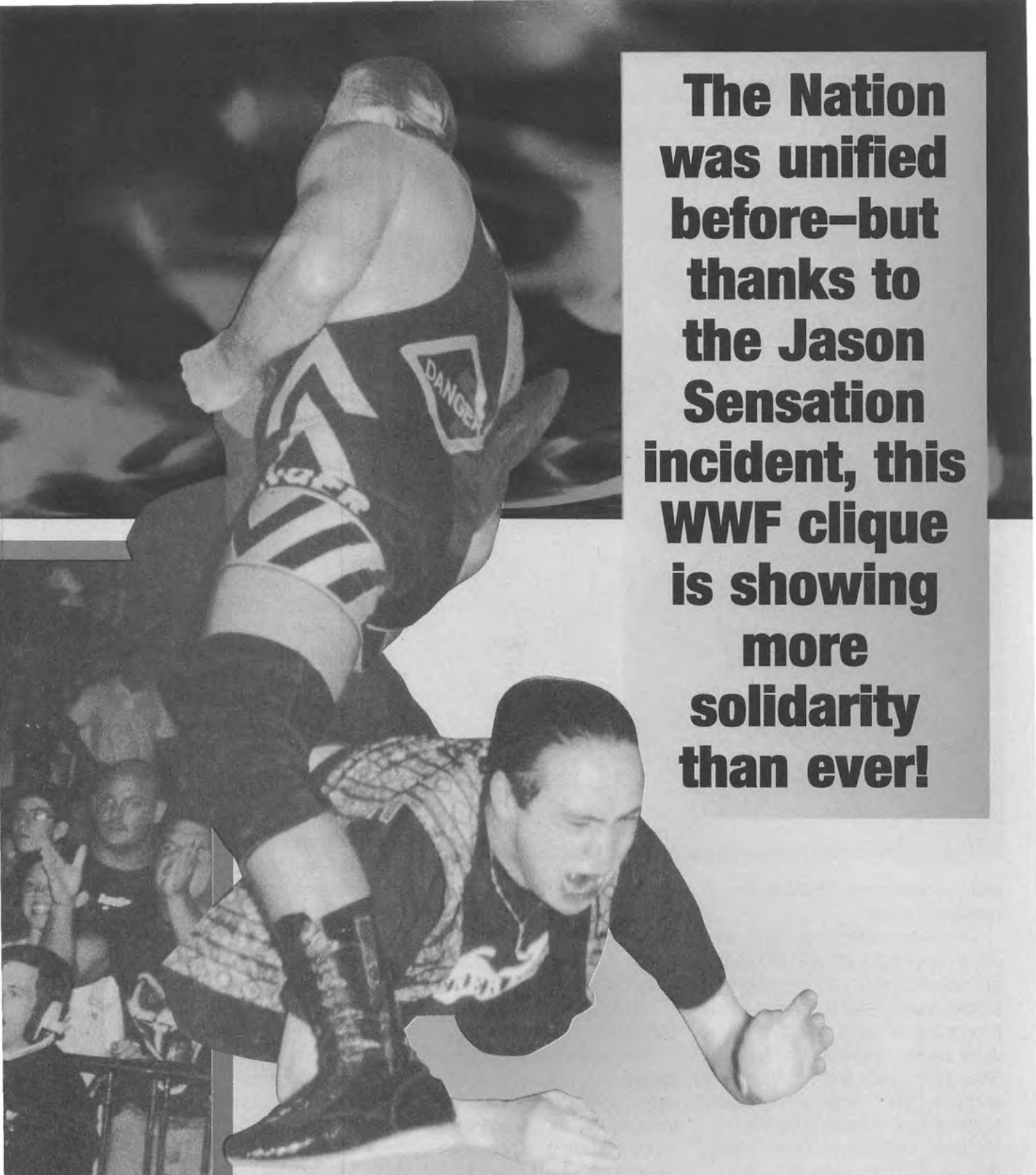
It's Not Comedy Now!

HOW JASON SENSATION FIRED UP THE NATION!



Jason Sensation is a comedian, not an athlete. Still, he had to bear the brunt of an angry attack by Owen Hart (below and opposite page).

The Nation was unified before–but thanks to the Jason Sensation incident, this WWF clique is showing more solidarity than ever!



By Bryan Ethier

ON A MIDSUMMER edition of *Raw Is War,* a 39-pound pretzel stick of a person, clad in black wrestling tights that bore police line tape from breast to thigh, stood in the squared circle and asked the audience: "Why am I wearing this outfit? I look like a damn road sign!"

The man posing the question wore a fake nose the size of the Wicked Witch of the West's, and his voice was amazingly similar to Owen Hart's.

For several minutes, this Owen impersonator, along with members of DeGeneration X, parodied the pompous dress, style, and antics of their nemeses in The Nation. For this virtually unknown

Rocky Maivia had to calm Hart down, but the damage to Sensation had been done—and The Nation had been infused with a strong dose of unity.

comic, these were his proverbial 15 minutes of fame.

One week later, the nation met Jason Sensation: 20-year-old comic, pro wrestling fan, and impersonator extraordinare. Seated ringside at the broadcasters' table with Jim Ross, Jerry Lawler, and Shawn Michaels, Sensation made the broadcasters and fans gasp for air with brilliantly hilarious impersonations of Bret Hart, Michaels, Undertaker, Steve Austin, and Owen. Everyone laughed ... except for the members of The Nation, who fumed backstage. Owen Hart, the laughingstock of the comic litany, cursed in language unfit for even a WWF broadcast.

"That's not funny! Why don't you come over here and say that?" Hart barked in Sensation's direction as he emerged from the locker room area.

Suddenly, Sensation's impish face went blank. Then a look of horror swept over him. Hart was racing down the rampway toward the broadcasters' table.

"Don't stop," Lawler encouraged Sensation, "I'll protect you."

But as he watched Hart race toward him, Jason Sensation felt far from protected. Suddenly, an enraged Owen Hart was in Jason's face, grabbing him by the collar. Shockingly, Hart reared back and slapped the stunned comic in the face. Then he grabbed Sensation and dragged him into the ring. With Sensation screaming like a baby, Hart applied a crippling "sharpshooter," drawing blood from the whimpering comic's mouth.

"That's a terrible thing to do to a 20-year-old kid," offered Ross.

Seeing Hart out of control, Rocky Maivia and the other members of The Nation raced out to the ring to restrain him. Afterward, Hunter Hearst Helmsley and DX came out to rescue the battered comic.

When the dust had finally cleared, Jason Sensation slithered out of sight, and DeGeneration X walked away, ultimately the butt of its own joke. In the ensuing days, the members of DX would realize that their goal, to undermine the foundation of The Nation, had backfired.

What brings a family together? The illness or misfortune suffered by a member. The Nation answered that question clearly when one of its key members, Owen Hart, was ridiculed, blasphemed, and otherwise verbally abused by Jason Sensation. On the night of the "Jason Hour," Nation members rallied around their comrade in a show of support. "No one will make fun of The Nation!" quickly became their battle cry.

Now, as a result of this incident, a sense of unity exists in the group that, while not previously absent, had surely never been this powerful. Once a splintered group, first led despotically by Faarooq and then by "The Rock," The Nation seems to have adopted a far more cohesive approach in its organization. Maivia has taken it upon himself to bring the ranks together.

"I found their reaction to the Jason Sensation incident rather revealing," said broadcaster Michael Cole. "I considered those guys to be a group of independent thinkers who looked out mostly for themselves. But we have seen that sometimes adversity makes a group stronger. And we can see how Owen and D-Lo have grown as the others have rallied around them."

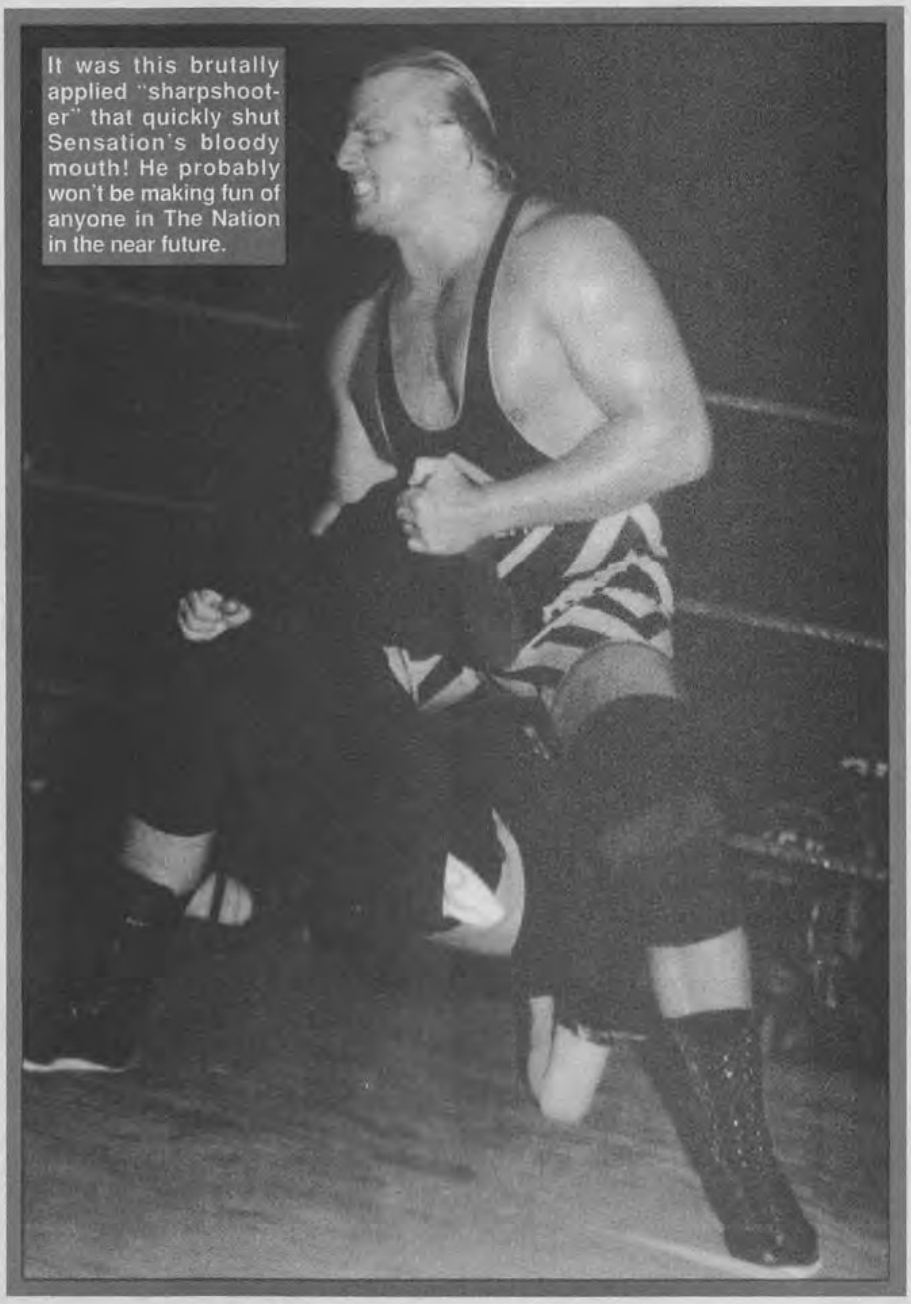
As the bond between the group's members has strengthened, so has Owen Hart's resolve. For years he had been the outcast of the Hart family, forced to battle alone, to stand

up for himself when no one else would. Ultimately he failed, even with World tag team, Intercontinental, and European titles to boast about. But he has become a new man since joining The Nation. He is nastier, bolder, and more willing to go the final yard in his matches ... perhaps because he knows he has players to back him up, people who believe in self-respect and mutual respect.

"When The Nation was formed, Faarooq fought to gain respect for his group," said Cole. "In time, and through changes in personnel, they found the respect they so craved—through each other."

The proof is in the championship gold, and as of this writing, The Nation's D-Lo Brown held the European title, while Maivia had just ended his eight month reign as Intercontinental champ. For The Nation, self-respect was the key to success—which in turn is the key to getting respect from those outside the group.

If Owen gets in trouble while wrestling X-Pac or another member of DeGeneration X, he knows he can count on the rest of The Nation's help. Those guys look out for each other more than ever now!



It was this brutally applied "sharpshooter" that quickly shut Sensation's bloody mouth! He probably won't be making fun of anyone in The Nation in the near future.

"I think you will see a whole new level of respect for The Nation," said Ross. "First, because they have proven themselves in the ring. Second, with this Jason incident behind them, they are functioning as a team. And who doesn't respect a unified team?"

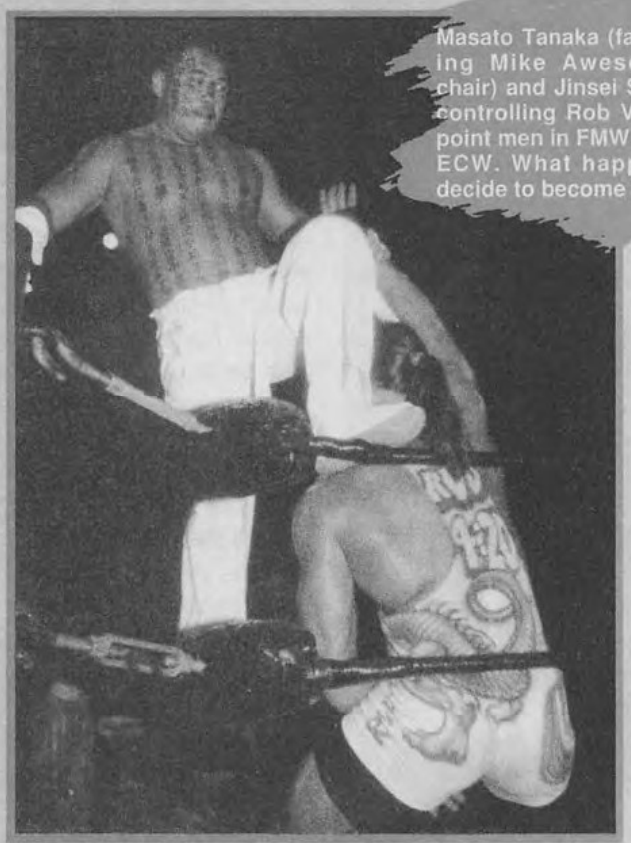
Certainly not DeGeneration X, whose members (particularly Chyna) seem bent on wreaking havoc in The Nation's household. DX's obsession with interfering in Nation matches and publicly mocking the rival faction is certainly cause for concern. Has DX begun to lose its self-respect and self-esteem? Will we eventually see DX splinter?

Perhaps "Triple-H" and the DX gang should emulate The Nation now. Perhaps they should watch a group working like a machine, all the parts of the engine firing at the right time. Perhaps they should note how Mark Henry has improved as a wrestler ... how D-Lo has come out of his shell ... how Owen Hart has a "family" ...

... and how Rocky Maivia has learned that leadership means being there to help a fallen comrade. □

IT'S COMING...

HARDCORE WORLD WAR!



Masato Tanaka (far left, attacking Mike Awesome with a chair) and Jinsei Shinzaki (left, controlling Rob Van Dam) are point men in FMW's invasion of ECW. What happens if they decide to become allies?

Move over, ECW: The stars of FMW are out to prove that they're the most extreme athletes in the sport–and they're willing do so at your expense!

Awesome retaliates against Tanaka (left and above). If you're an ECW wrestler, you probably should hope that this feud continues for a while.

By Dan Murphy

MIKE AWESOME has been an ECW fan for years. Actually, for a brief period a few years ago, he was more than just an ECW fan. He actually got a chance to wrestle a few matches there during the promotion's early years and absolutely loved the experience.

Though he was unable to catch ECW's weekly television programming at his current home in Japan, Awesome made sure his friends in the U.S. sent him videotapes to keep him abreast of what is going on at the ECW Arena.

Awesome, like thousands of other hardcore ECW fans, watched in awe as New Jack performed his suicidal dives off balconies, driving foe after hapless foe through tables. He was amazed by Taz's fierce determination and mastery of dozens of variations of the suplex. He liked the way the renegade promotion battled impossible odds against WCW and the WWF and managed to deliver some of the most memorable matches in recent wrestling history.

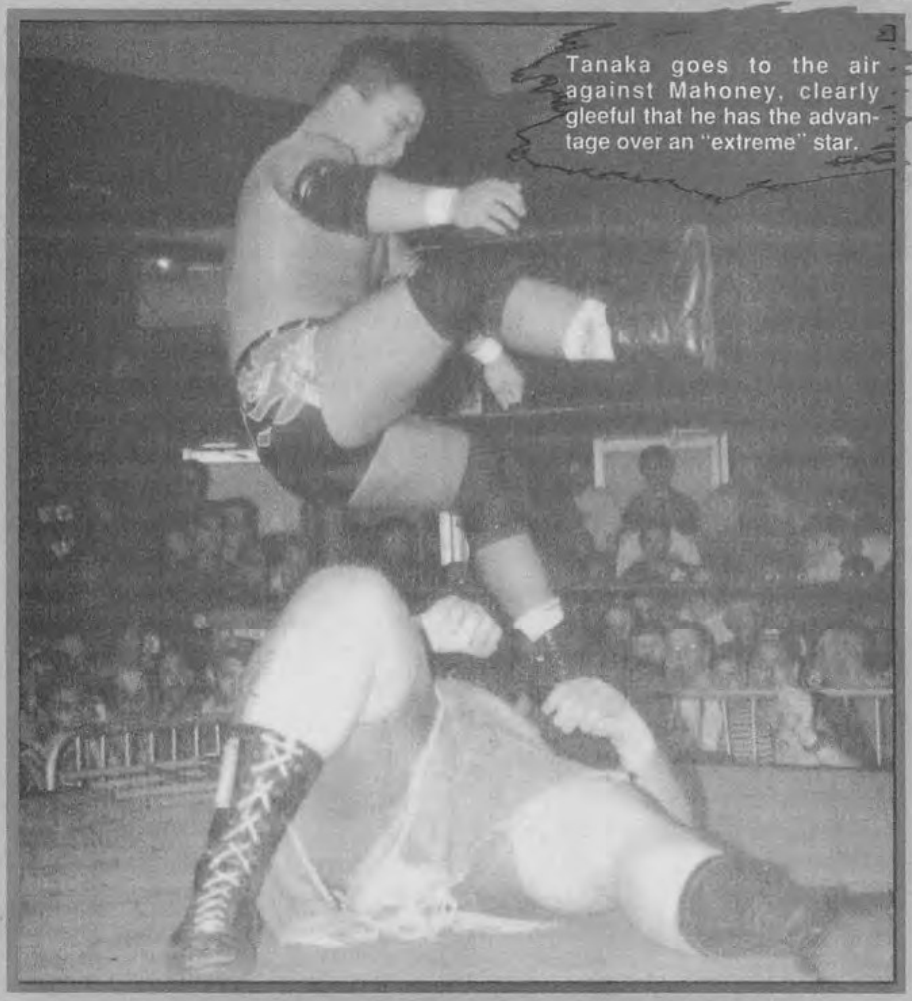
But does Awesome agree that ECW is the most extreme wrestling organization in the world?

Puh-leeze!

"What really gets me is that I see guys like Tommy Dreamer and Sandman bragging about how hardcore they are because they've done a few steel cage matches or scaffold matches or swung a Singapore cane," Awesome said, shaking his head. "Have these guys wrestled in an exploding ring death match? Have they ever been powerslammed on a bed of nails in the center of the ring? ECW gives you some great, tough wrestling, yeah, but FMW is the real home of extreme wrestling."

Though ECW fans are often portrayed as ultraviolent maniacs, they are among the most knowledgeable wrestling fans in the world. The atmosphere at the Hara Arena for the Heatwave '98 pay-per-view was absolutely electric as fans anticipated both the clash between Awesome and the much-heralded Masato Tanaka, and the tag team battle scheduled between Rob Van Dam and Sabu and Jinsei Shinzaki (who wrestled as Hakushi in the WWF) and Hayabusa.

The four superstars from Japan's Frontier Martial Arts promotion more than lived up to their international reputations. Shinzaki and Hayabusa rocked the reigning ECW tag team champions with power bombs and brutal aerial attacks before falling to Sabu and Van Dam's double-legdrop through a table. Tanaka upended



Tanaka goes to the air against Mahoney, clearly gleeful that he has the advantage over an "extreme" star.

where his mentor, the infamous Sheik, wrestled some of the final matches of his career. It is the promotion in which barbed-wire matches became almost as common as tag team matches. It is a promotion in which, as in ECW, only the toughest—and most extreme—are permitted to step through the ropes. Now, with some of FMW's top stars competing regularly in ECW, some wrestlers are strongly tapping into their competitive sides ... and their respective pride for their home federation.

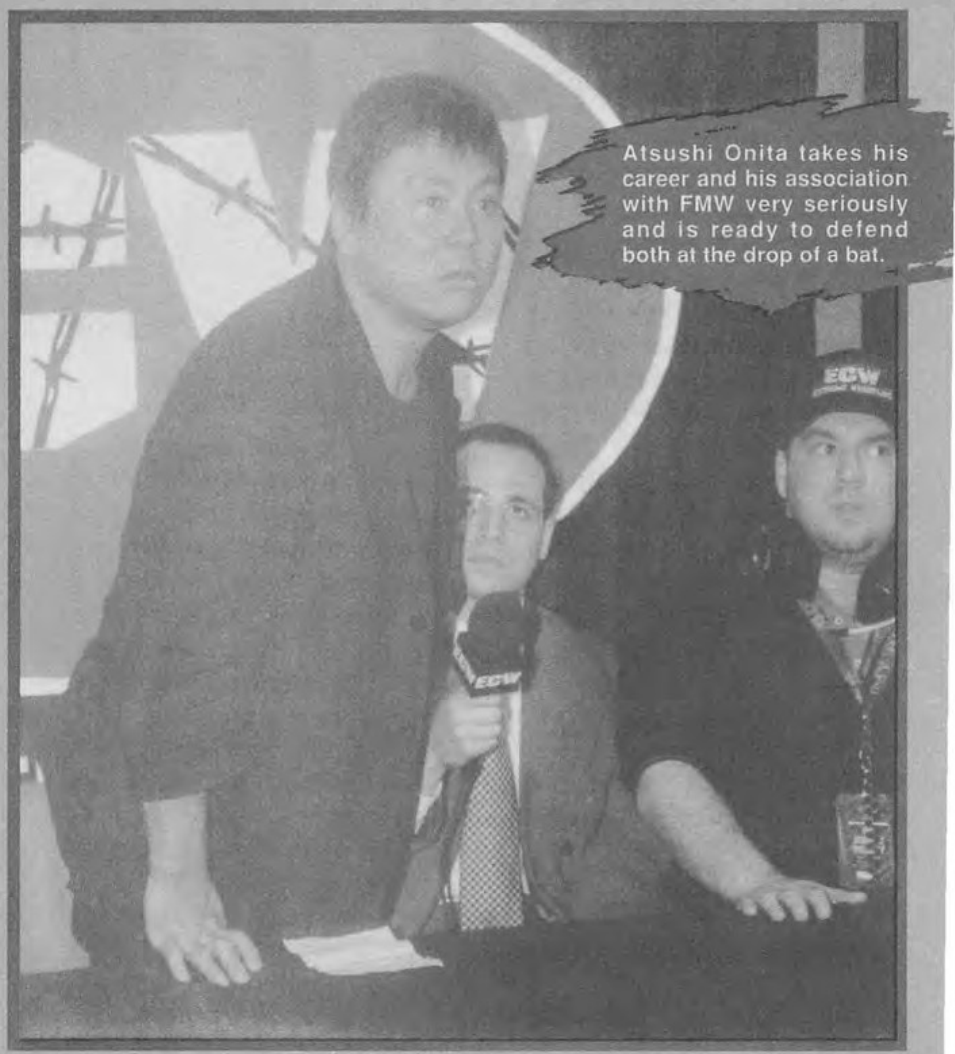
"I've heard some stories about what goes on in FMW, but I'm not exactly impressed," former ECW champion Bam Bam Bigelow declared. "So a couple of scrawny little punks like to throw themselves on beds of nails and onto broken glass? Big deal! That just goes to show they've got no common sense. I can guarantee they wouldn't be able to do that to 'The Beast From The East.'"

Awesome in one of their many classic matches.

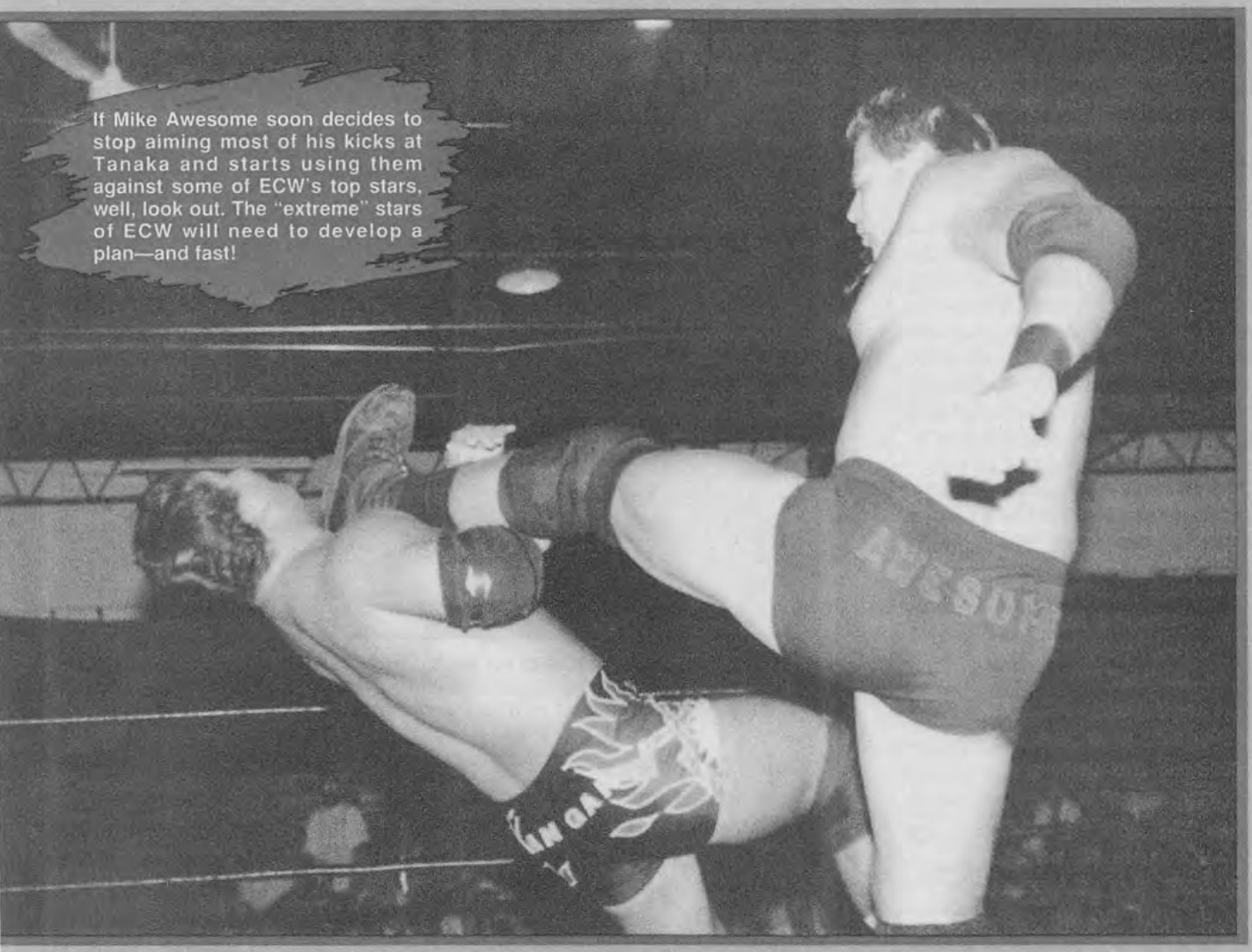
After the card had ended, fans were salivating over potential dream matches involving the FMW wrestlers and other ECW favorites. How would Tanaka fare against Taz? What about Shinzaki and Shane Douglas? Awesome and Bam Bam Bigelow? And what about that match between Atsushi Onita and The Sandman that has supposedly been in the works for months? Yes, fans agreed, August 2 could usher in a whole new era for ECW.

That era could very well be the bloodiest and most intense in wrestling history. Indeed, Heatwave could have been the first step toward a hardcore world war.

For years, FMW has carved out its niche as one of the most brutal promotions in Japan. The only rules in FMW are these: Create mayhem and try to survive. It is where Sabu learned his trade, and



Atsushi Onita takes his career and his association with FMW very seriously and is ready to defend both at the drop of a bat.



If Mike Awesome soon decides to stop aiming most of his kicks at Tanaka and starts using them against some of ECW's top stars, well, look out. The "extreme" stars of ECW will need to develop a plan—and fast!

Shane Douglas agreed. "I'm impressed by these guys, especially Tanaka," he said. "They're great athletes. But they have to work their way up the ladder here in ECW before they can expect respect. I don't care what they've done in Japan; it's what they do in ECW that matters."

Douglas' opinion is the ECW locker room consensus. Numerous ECW wrestlers have brushed away comparisons between FMW and ECW, and have vastly understated and minimized the FMW accomplishments of Shinzaki, Awesome, Tanaka, and Hayabusa. That could be a major mistake.

One need only look to 1996 to see a similar situation. In the summer of that year, Scott Hall and Kevin Nash invaded WCW, much to the delight of many WCW fans. WCW competitors resented the condescending attitude the WWF alumni showed them, and Sting, Lex Luger, and Randy Savage joined forces to combat the "invaders." Hall and Nash managed to recruit fellow ex-WWF star Hulk Hogan and proceeded to take over WCW, something no one would have thought possible at the time.

Yes, Awesome and Tanaka are feuding now, and Shinzaki and Hayabusa have lowered their profile after their loss at Heatwave. But ECW is an exclusive club that isn't known for opening its arms to newcomers, especially highly hyped newcomers who walk into main event matches at the expense of established ECW talent who deserve that spot.

On top of that, all four FMW grapplers have publicly scoffed at the notion that ECW is the most "extreme" promotion there is, a very unpopular opinion in a promotion whose champion wrestled through a potentially career-threatening elbow injury and a collapsed sinus cavity to deliver a successful title defense. Brave or stupid, these guys aren't making friends.

But say they were to stop wrestling each other altogether, unite, and make a strong ally—someone like fellow FMW alumnus Sabu. Sabu has had trouble with both Van Dam and manager Bill Alfonso in recent months. Alfonso's recent proposals to long-time Sabu enemy and former Alfonso protege Taz could push the Arabian madman over the line. Others could soon follow suit.

If so, ECW could be in store for an even bigger—and far more violent—problem than the NWO ever presented. □

Did you ever wonder how YOU could get into Pro Wrestling?

Maybe as a valet, manager or even a wrestler?
Or in one of **MANY** non-wrestling positions?

OR DO YOU WANT TO FIND OUT "MORE" ABOUT WRESTLING?

Now YOU can find out what you need to know to enter the exciting world of Pro Wrestling! This very insightful **new 1998 Edition** is written by two active professionals in the wrestling business who have worked for every major wrestling association including WCW and the WWF! You are advised what to do, where to write, how to act, what to say, how to get various jobs, what your chances are – and how to better those odds! Explains many "inside" things you never knew, but need to know!

- Details over 50 different jobs possible in pro wrestling!
- Lists addresses of U.S. promotions and best wrestling schools • Tells you where to order boots, tights, etc., in U.S. and U.K. • Charge it!

VISA MasterCard

NEW updated information!

1998 Inside Secrets on How YOU Can Enter The Exciting World of Pro Wrestling!

Price of 1998 Edition is only $15, incl. postage!
Add $5 s/h outside U.S. - **Send Visa, MasterCard, Money Order or cash for quickest shipment!**

PRO WRESTLING CAREER BOOK
360 Connecticut Ave., Ste. 192 • Norwalk, CT 06854

MOVING?

Kindly give us 8 weeks advance notice

Are you moving? If so, please give us 8 weeks advance notice so we can continue to service your subscription promptly. Check the magazine(s) listed below you subscribe to:

- ☐ PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED
- ☐ THE WRESTLER
- ☐ INSIDE WRESTLING
- ☐ WRESTLING SUPERSTARS/ WRESTLE AMERICA
- ☐ THE WRESTLING ANALYST
- ☐ PWI WEEKLY

NAME

OLD ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

NEW ADDRESS

CITY

STATE ZIP

EFFECTIVE DATE

CLIP THIS FORM AND SEND TO:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
DEPT 9, P.O. BOX 2029
MARION, OH 43302

4687/02-98/2c

BringTheBellsBack on Archive.org

YOUR LETTERS

(Continued from page 5)

WWF announcer Jim Ross tries to set Jim Cornette straight on a point or two. While some fans find fault with Ross and some of his counterparts in WCW and ECW, reader Shay Gibson is pleased with their performances.

SPEAK YOUR MIND

This letter is in regard to David Hopkins' letter ("Talking Heads") that was published in the October 1998 issue of THE WRESTLER.

David, it's the '90s, and wrestling announcers are speaking their minds.

So what if Tony Schiavone thinks the upcoming pay-per-view is going to be the biggest night in the history of wrestling. He's got a job to do—getting more viewers—and he's just trying to get more people to watch WCW.

Maybe the WWF fans don't need to be reminded that Steve Austin is the "baddest S.O.B. in the WWF," but what's wrong with the announcers coming up with a few more nicknames? I'm sure if Austin didn't agree with Jim Ross, he'd have something to say. Look at Owen Hart. He hates to be called a "nugget." But when the fans chant it, he says something about it.

David, if I were a member of DX, I would have two words for you.

SHAY GIBSON
Havre de Grace, MD

MORE GANGREL

Can you guys at THE WRESTLER please do more stuff on Gangrel (a.k.a. The Vampire Warrior, a.k.a. David Heath)? I have been a fan of his for a long time, even when he was wrestling in Japan. I couldn't believe my eyes when I saw him recently on *Sunday Night Heat*.

Gangrel is super-intense, and his swinging DDT is the most impressive I have ever seen. Plus his fangs, his blood-drinking ritual, and his fiery entrance are really, really cool.

Finally, this much-travelled veteran is getting a much-deserved chance to shine in the greatest wrestling promotion in the world. I could see Gangrel beating Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Rocky Maivia, and, dare I say, "Stone-Cold" Steve Austin.

So please get on the Gangrel bandwagon—more pictures, more stories, whatever you guys have on him.

LAUREN COMBS
Pittsburgh, PA ☐

Send YOUR LETTERS to:
Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

WHAT'S HAPPENING

(Continued from page 7)

Masa Chono, leader of NWO Japan, is enjoying life to the fullest these days. He's currently the IWGP heavyweight champ, but he seems to be alienating some of his associates.

(**Goldust**), when he was a happy husband and father, and when he left his wife. Now he's starting to sound more and more like an evangelist.

"Much of what you see from the World Wrestling Federation these days is a non-educational form of lewd, mind-rotting entertainment," he told me. "I suggest that parents have their children tune in to stations like The Discovery Channel in order to ensure their children's time is spent properly."

Rhodes has harshly criticized **Sable**, saying that the way she "flaunts her body is something she cannot continue to do in good conscience. She must repent." For some reason, and I don't know why, I have a gut feeling that Dustin is not being sincere at all when he says these things. I think it's just a facade and that he's getting ready to do something that will shock everybody.

Al Snow recently made his debut in Music City Wrestling and was immediately given a shot at North American champion **The Colorado Kid**. Snow didn't win the belt, but he did have an excuse. "The officials there didn't let me put **Head** in a proper position by the ring," he said. "I couldn't hear Head's instructions, so I got confused. That cost me the match."

Just a few weeks after he and partner **Hiroyoshi Tenzan** lost the IWGP tag team belts, **Masa Chono** defeated veteran **Tatsumi Fujinami** for the IWGP heavyweight title. But since winning the belt, Chono has alienated some of his NWO Japan counterparts. Several of them have told me that Chono's ego has gotten out of control.

"He orders custom-blended cigars brought to his dressing room three hours before his matches," said one NWO Japan member who wanted to remain anonymous. "He also demands a bottle of champagne and a fine cut of filet mignon. And he refuses to sit in on our group strategy sessions. He just asks us to give him a transcript of what our proposed strategy will be, and he must approve it. This is not good. This is what that broke up the NWO in the United States."

Michael Wall Street, an NWO member now residing in Japan, didn't mince his words. "Hollywood Hogan, **Scott Hall**, **Kevin Nash**—all their egos led to the split in the States," he said. "I respect Chono, but he's going on the same course as those guys. I didn't want to choose sides there, and I don't want to if there is a breakup here."

Justin Credible has a nice little winning streak going, having beaten **The Sandman** several times. "I only lost those matches because I didn't drink enough beer before they started," Sandman said ... Veteran **One Man Gang** has won the Mid-South Promotions belt from **Kevin Northcutt** ... **Rick Steiner** thinks he's found a way to get brother Scott back in his corner. "Scotty wants to be a movie star, right?" he said. "So look. I went out and bought this very expensive video camera. I mean, it does some special effects like a fadeout. Now I'm writing a script, and I want Scotty to star in it. I'll take it to some movie producers, and that'll make Scotty real happy!"

Huh?

That's what's happening. I'll see you at the matches. □

FIGURES Inc.

MasterCard · VISA · DISCOVER · DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL · AMERICAN EXPRESS

Orders/Questions Call - (401) 946-5720
FAX (24 Hours) - (401) 946-8492

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Address: FIGURES Inc.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

VIEW OUR CATALOG ON THE INTERNET - http://www.wrestlingsuperstore.com E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

NEW WWF ACTION FIGURES-WWF SUPERSTARS

By Jakks Toys (1996-1997) New line of WWF Action Figures based on some of the most popular WWF Superstars. Each figure has a ***"Bone Crunching Sound"*** when posed. These action figures are 6" tall. ***ALL JAKKS FIGURES ARE $15.00 EACH OR (ANY 6 FOR $75.00) Choose from:***

1st Series
Undertaker #1 • Shawn Michaels #1 (Blue Pants)
Bret Hart #1 (BlckShirt/Pnk Pants) • Goldust

2nd Series
Vader • Owen Hart • Undertaker #2
Bret Hart #2 (Red Shirt/Blck Pants) • Shawn Michaels (Red Outfit)

3rd Series
Bret Hart #3 • Shawn Michaels #3 • Sid • British Bulldog
Ahmed Johnson • Mankind

4th Series
Jerry "The King" Lawler • "Stone Cold" Steve Austin • Faarooq
Justin • Hawk Bradshaw • Vader #2 • Hunter Hearst Helmsley

5th Series
"Stone Cold Steve Austin • Sycho Sid • Rocky Maivia
Flash Funk • Ken Shamrock • Savio Vega

Stomp Series
Ahmed Johnson • Undertaker • Crush • Ken Shamrock • Austin

Signature Series
Hawk #2 • Animal #2 • Goldust #2 • Steve Austin 3:16 Shirt
Mankind #2 • Hunter Hearst Helmsley #2

OTHER JAKKS FIGURES

RINGSIDE COLLECTION

SUNNY - $10.00 VINCE MCMAHON - $10.00
SABLE - $10.00 REFEREE - $15.00

4th Series 2-Packs

$20.00 per set or $75.00 set of 4

FEATURED MANAGERS
Paul Bearer & Mankind, Bob Backlund & Sultan
Clarances Mason & Crush, Sable & Marc Mero "Wildman"

5th Series Tag Team 2 Packs

$20.00 per set or $75.00 set of 4

LEGION OF DOOM HEADBANGERS
NEW BLACK JACKS THE GODWINS

SLAMMERS ACTION FIGURES SERIES 1 (1998)

EACH ACTION FIGURE HAS A DEVASTATING FINISHING MOVE AND BONE CRUNCHING-ACTION!

Undertaker (New Outfit) $10 Goldust $10 Steve Austin (Black Tights) $15
Bret Hart $10 Mankind $10 Faarooq $10
Complete set of all 6 Slammer Figuresfor $60.00 Set

JAKKS LEGENDS SERIES 1

LEGENDED FIGURES ARE HIGHLY DETAILED 7 INCH TALL BOXED FIGURES

Choose From:

ANDRE THE GIANT $25 JIMMY SNUKA $20 FREDDIE BLASSIE $20
CAPTAIN LOU ALBANO $20 Complete set of all 4 Legend Figures for $80 set

JAKKS RIPPED AND RUTHLESS

RIPPED AND RUTHLESS ARE HIGHLY DETAILED 7 INCHES TALL BOXED FIGURES

Choose From:

UNDERTAKER $20 MANKIND $20 GOLDUST $20.00
STEVE AUSTIN $25 Complete set of all 4 Ripped and Ruthless for $80 set

CHAMPIONSHIP BELTS FOR WRESTLING FIGURES

THESE BELTS FIT THE FOLLOWING ACTION FIGURES LINES:

WWF LJN 8 inch Wrestling Figures from 1984-1989
WWF Hasbro 4 inch figures from 1990-1995
WWF Jakks 6 inch Figures from 1996-1997
WWF Just Toy Bendems 5 figures from 1990
WCW Gallob 4 inch Figures from 1990
WCW San Francisco Toymakers 7 inch Figures from 1994-1997
CMLL 5 inch mexican Wrestlers from 1992
AWA 5 inch Remco Wrestling Figures from 1986

SERIES 1
Each Belt has a black strap with gold medallion
WE HAVE 3 DIFFERENT KINDS AVAILABLE
1) World Heavyweight Championship 2) World Tag Team Championship
3) International Championship
WE OFFER THEM IN 3 DIFFERENT WAYS: Buy any single belt for $3.00 each
4 PACK OF BELTS FOR $8.00 contains:
1 World Heavyweight Belt, 1 International Belt, 2 World Tag Team Belts
12 PACK OF BELTS FOR $20.00 contains:
3 World Heavy weight Belts, 3 International Belts, 6 World Tag Team Belts

SERIES 2
EACH BELT HAS A BROWN STRAP WITH SILVER MEDALLION,
We have 4 Different Kinds Available:
1) Light Heavyweight Championship, 2) Intercontinental Championship, 3) United States Championship, 4) Cruiserweight Championship

SERIES 3
EACH BELT HAS A GREY STRAP WITH GOLD MEDALLION,
We have 4 Different Kinds Available:
1) TV Championship, 2) European Championship, 3) Toughman Championship, 4) All-Japan Championship

WE OFFER THEM IN 3 DIFFERENT WAYS: Buy any single belt for $3.00 each
4 PACK OF BELTS FOR $8.00 CONTAINS: 1 of each
12 PACKS OF BELTS FOR $20.00 CONTAINS: 3 of each.

EXTRA SPECIAL DEAL
40 PACKS OF BELTS for $40.00
You choose the assortment from any Series 1, Series 2 or Series 3
(Simply tell us how many you want of each kind and make sure it totals 40)
MAKE YOUR OWN 4 PACK - $8.00 set of 4 MAKE YOUR OWN 12 PACK - $20.00 set of 12

NEW JAPAN-PRO WRESTLING SUPERSTARS

5 1/2 Inch Action Figures
By New Japan Pro-Wrestling Co (1997-1998)

Finely detailed 5 1/2 inch action figures are inported from Japan and are based on Real Japanese Wrestlers of the New Japn Pro-Wrestling Federation. They are mint in there original package and each action figure is articulated at the shoulders. Very rare limited quantities!!

NEW JAPAN PRO WRESTLING FIGURES
$35.00 each or any 3 for $100.00 or ALL 6 for $180.00
CHOOSE FROM: Great Muta # 1(Black Pants) • Masahiro Chono
Riki Chosyu • Great Muta #2 (Red Pants) • K. Sasaki • S. Hashimoto

14 INCH TALKING UNDERTAKER FIGURE

(Mint in Box) by Playmates (1997) $50.00 each

JAKKS ITEMS

RAW IS WAR ACTION RING WITH 6 MINI FIGURES

Comes With: Austin Amed, Faarooq, Mankind, Golddust, Helmsley **$25.00 SET**

WRESTLEMANIA ACTION RING WITH 6 MINI FIGURES

Comes With: Shawn, Bret, Undertaker, Owen, Sid, Vader **$25.00 SET**

OFFICIAL WWF WRESTLING MONSTER RING BY JAKKS

(1996) Mint In-Box made to fit 6" Action Figures – **$30.00 ea.**

(1990 - 1994) WORLD WRESTLING FEDERATION HASBRO 4 INCH ACTION FIGURES

"(all mint in package)" WWF HASBRO 4" WRESTLING ACTION FIGURES

All Figures in This Section are $15.00 each.

Bret Hart	Tatanka #1	Brutus Beefcake #1
Big Boss Man #1	Big Boss Man #2	Berzerker
Hacksaw Duggan #1	The Mountie	El Matador
I.R.S.	Undertacker #1	Scott Steiner
Hacksaw Duggan #2	Bushwacker Butch	Buskwacker Luke
Marty Janetty	Headshrinker Fatu	Headshrinker Samu

OTHER WWF HASBRO 4" WRESTLING ACTION FIGURES

Ultimate Warior #3 (Purple Trunks)	$50.00 ea.	Texas Tornado	$50.00 ea.
Honky Tonk Man	$40.00 ea.	Ultimate Warrior #1 (Green Trunks)	$35.00 ea.
Roddy Piper	$35.00 ea.	Typhoon	$30.00 ea.
Earthquake	$30.00 ea.	Sgt. Slaughter	$30.00 ea.
Hulk Hogan #3 (with Hulkaplex)	$30.00 ea.	Randy Savage (King w/ Crown)	$30.00 ea.
Ted Dibiase #1 (Black Suit)	$30.00 ea.	Brutus Beefcake #2 (White & Black)	$30.00 ea.
Greg Valentine	$30.00 ea.	Jimmy Snuka	$30.00 ea.
Kamala	$25.00 ea.	Razor Ramon #1	$25.00 ea.
Crush #1	$25.00 ea.	Razor Ramon #2 (with Black Vest)	$25.00 ea.
Razor Ramon (with Purple Vest)	$25.00 ea.	Hulk Hogan (Gorilla Press)	$20.00 ea.
Jake the Snake Roberts	$20.00 ea.	Hulk Hogan (with Hulkster Hug)	$20.00 ea.
Ted Dibiase (in Green Outfit)	$20.00 ea.		

WWF HASBRO TAG TEAM 2 PACKS

WWF Tag Team 2 Packs (2 Figures in each set)
The Bushwackers #1 (Luke & Butch) ..... $20.00 set
The Rockers (Shawn & Marty) ..... $40.00 set

1996/1997 WWF BEND-EMS

By Just Toys $7.00 each or (any 4 figures for $25.00 or any 10 for $50.00)
These are 5" bendable figures and are MINT in package

1st Series							
Diesel	$7.00 ea.	Doink	$7.00 ea.	Bret Hart	$7.00 ea.	Razor Ramon	$7.00 ea.
2nd Series							
The Undertaker	$7.00 ea.	British Bulldog	$7.00 ea.	123 Kid	$7.00 ea.	Mabel	$7.00 ea.
3rd Series							
Golddust	$7.00 ea.	Shawn Michaels	$7.00 ea.	Ahmed Johnson	$7.00 ea.	Yokozuna	$7.00 ea.
4th Series							
Vader	$7.00 ea.	Sunny	$7.00 ea.	Marc Mero	$7.00 ea.	Psycno Sid	$7.00 ea.
5th Series							
Steve Austin	$7.00 ea.	Rocky Maivia	$7.00 ea.	Mankind	$7.00 ea.	Faarooq	$7.00 ea.
6th Series							
Hawk	$7.00 ea.	Animal	$7.00 ea.	Undertaker #2	$7.00 ea.	Hunter Helmsley	$7.00 ea.

OFFICIAL WWF SUPERSLAM WRESTLING RING

For 5" Bend-em figures w/ exclusive Paul Bearer 5" Bend-em figure. The bottom of this ring converts into a carrying case for the Bend-em Wrestling Figures. ..... **$25.00 set**

FAMOUS FIGHTS 2 FIGURE PACKS (Just Toys)

EACH PACK CONTAINS 2 BENDS EM 5-INCH FIGURES THAT ARE PACKAGED IN A SPECIAL FAMOUS DISPLAY BOX.

$10.00 per set or
All 3 sets for $25

STEVE AUSTIN VS. BRET HART
UNDERTAKER VS. MANKIND
AHMED JOHNSON VS. FAAROOQ

Wrestling Music - CD & Cassette Tapes

Hulk Hogan and the Wrestling Boot Band (1995)
10 different songs by Hulk Hogan and others.
CD version 5.00
Cassette version 5.00

WWF The Music Volume 2
Contains 15 Official Theme Songs
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

Full Metal WWF - The Album
14 different songs includes many official arena entrance themes.
CD version 23.00
Cassette version 17.00

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO:
1-401-946-8492

SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED

60 PAGE SCI-FI AND SUPERHERO ACTION FIGURE CATALOG SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

36 PAGE WRESTLING CATALOG SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

All Distinctive Character Names and Likenesses Are Trademarks Of Their Copyright Owners.

FIGURES Inc.

MasterCard VISA DISCOVER DINERS CLUB INTERNATIONAL AMERICAN EXPRESS

Orders/Questions Call - (401) 946-5720
FAX (24 Hours) - (401) 946-8492

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Address: FIGURES Inc.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

VIEW OUR CATALOG ON THE INTERNET - http://www.wrestlingsuperstore.com E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

OTHER ITEMS WE CARRY IN OUR 36 PAGE CATALOG

WWF Wallpaper, WWF Inflatable Toys, WWF Bandanas, WWF Pogs and Slammers, WWF Miscellaneous Collectibles, Ultimate Warrior Comic Books, WWF Party Goods, Wrestling Magazines, WCW Galoob 1990 Figures, WCW Racing Items, CMLL Mexican Wrestling Toys, Original Wrestling Masks, Japanese Pro Wrestling Trading Cards - **Send $2.00**

WWF FULL HEAD MASKS

by Cesar Inc. (1997)

FULL HEAD MASKS ARE SOFT VINYL AND FIT COMPLETELY OVER THE HEAD

Bret "Hitman" Hart $35.00
Shawn Nichaels $35.00
Sycho Kid $25.00
Goldust $35.00
Undertaker $35.00
Mankind $35.00

64 PAGE LARGE SIZE FULL COLOR WRESTLING HARDCOVER BOOK
"THIS IS WRESTLING' TODAY'S STARS TOMMORROWS LEGENDS $15.00 EACH

NEW TED DIBIASE
168 PAGE BOOK -
"EVERY MAN HAS HIS PRICE"
$15.00 EACH

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING TRIVIA BOOK
"500 TRIVIA QUESTIONS
$10.00 EACH

WWF CHAMPIONSHIP BELT

This is a championship bell that has gold ridid plastic with soft belt strap (1997)
$19.00 each One Size Fits All

WWF WRESTLING TRIVIA GAMES 800 QUESTIONS
BY CARDINAL (1997)
Test your knowledge to the mat with this facinating trivia game about WWF Wrestling. Contains 800 Questions covering both old and new WWF Superstars from the 1970's and 1990's

$25.00 each

WRESTLEMANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELTS

by LJN Toys (1987)

Authentic replica of the Official WWF Championship WWF Medallion. Adjustable up to 31" waist. Each belt lists all former champions before 1987 including: Buddy Rogers, Bruno Sammartino, Superstar Billy Graham, Iron Sheik, Bob Backlund, Ivan Koloff, Pedro Morales, and Hulk Hogan

Wrestlemania Championship Belt $20.00

Leaping Lanny- Wrestling with Rhyme

by Lanny Poffo

THIS 172 PAGE BOOK IS DEDICATED TO THE WWF WRESTLER, ANNOUNCERS, ARENA, CHARITIES, ETC.
"FIGURES INC. EXCLUSIVE"
(With Lanny and Randy Savage's Autograph)
Own a limited edition copy of this book personally autographed by Lanny Poffo and his brother "Randy Macho Man Savage" exclusive for Figures Inc. customers
ONLY $10.00 EACH!

WWF T-Shirts by Trinity Co.

All T-shirts made from 100% cotton. All shirts come in adult and kid sizes.

Kids T-shirts ..... 15.00 ea. Adult T-shirts ..... 20.00 ea.
Sizes Available
Kids Medium Kids X-Large Kids Large
Sizes Available
Adult Medium Adult X-Large Adult Large Adult XX-Large

Undertaker #1 Undertaker #2 Undertaker #3 Shawn Michaels #1

Shawn Michaels #2 Bret Hart #1 Bret Hart #2 Psycho Sid #1

Marc Mero #1 Owen Hart #1 British Bulldog #1 Goldust & Marlena #1

Marc Mero #1 (Adult only) Goldust & Marlena #1 (Adult Only)
Legion of Doom #1 (Adult only) Head Bangers #1 (Adult Only)

Legion of Doom Headbangers Steve Austin #1

OTHER T-SHIRTS AVILABLE

Austin Rattlesnake Austin 3:16 Whoop Ass Stone Cold

Austin 3:16 Smoking Skull Dude Love Raw Is War Austin Bottom Line

Kane-Bearer of Pain Shawn DGenX DGenX Logo D-Generation X

Undertaker Buried Alive Austin- Do Not Trust Sable Sham Rock

WWF LIFESIZE STAND-UPS

by Advanced Graphics (1996)
Lifesize Standups are full color and actual size

Standups are $30.00 each.

Choose from: Shawn Michaels, The Undertaker, Bret Hart, Diesel
Note: These are only available to our United States customers. We can not send these overseas to other countries due to size of these. For U.S. customers, must give street address (no P.O. boxes).

WWF TRADING CARDS

WWF Wrestling Card Packs featuring Wrestlemania 3 by Topps (1987) Each pack contains 9 picture cards ..... $2.00 per pack or 10 packs for $10.00
Special Deal - Full factory box of 36 packs for only $20.00

WWF Superstars Sticker Packs by Euro Flash (made in Italy-1991) Each pack contains 6 full color stickers (made for the European market) ..... $1.00 per pack or 15 packs for $10.00

Classic WWF Trading Card Boxed Set (145 card set) Containing many WWF Superstars like Andre, Hulk, Ult. Warrior, etc. ..... $10.00 complete set

Official Classic WWF Trading Card Binder with plastic sheets for the above 145 card set. This is like a baseball card binder that contains enough plastic sheet card protectors so you can put in the entire 145 card set ..... only $5.00 each

WWF 1994 ACTION PACKED TRADING CARDS

WWF Action Packed TradingCards Premiere Series 1
Each pack contains 6 different fully embosed trading cards. These are the best type of trading cards made. They look 3-D.Packs randomly contain: Colossal Crushers Subset cards, 24K Gold Leaf cards, *Randomly* inserted autographed cards of the Undertaker and Macho Man Randy Savage.

PRICES:
$2.00 per pack 5 packs for $6.00
10 packs for $15.00
Complete set of all 42 cards for $20.00
Complete box of 24 packs for $24.00/set

WWF PEWTER LAPEL PINS are $5.00 each or (5 for $20.00)

Choose from: Stone Cold Skull, Austin 3:16, Shawn Michaels, RIP Urn, Raw Is War, Shawn Heart, Ahmed Johnson, Sid, Legion of Doom, Sunny, WWF Logo, Vader, RIP Casket, Shawn Heartbreak Kid, Rocky Maivia

WWF DOG TAGS DOUBLE SIDED with 28 Inch Chain Necklace are $10.00 each or (2 for $18.00)

Choose from: Stone Cold Austin Skull,Undertaker, Shawn Michaels, Marc Mero, Austin 3:16 logo, Legion of Doom, Savio Vega, Flash Funk

WWF Keychains are $8.00 each or (2 for $15.00)

Choose from: Bret Hitman Hart, Undertaker RIP Urn, Stone Cold Skull and Austin 3:16 logo

WWF BELT BUCKLES are $20.00 each

Choose from: Austin 3:16 Logo Belt Buckle, Stone Cold Steve Austin Skull Belt Buckle

WWF Stone Cold Skull Desk Clock are $30.00 each

WWF HALLOWEEN COSTUMES

by Rubie's Costumes (1996) Children's Costumes
Undertaker - w/ jumpsuit & mask
Small (4-6) – $20.00 ea.; Medium (8-10) - $20.00 ea.; Large (12-14 - $20.00 ea.
Bret "Hitman" Hart - w/ jumpsuit & mask Large (12-14) - $20.00 ea.

WWF AIR FRESHENERS

Complete set of 4 for $8.00
Set Includes: Undertaker, Steve Austin, Sable and Shawn Michaels

WWF BASEBALL HATS

$20.00 EACH
1. Austin 3:16
2. D-Generation X

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO:
1-401-946-8492

SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED

60 PAGE SCI-FI AND SUPERHERO ACTION FIGURE CATALOG SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

36 PAGE WRESTLING CATALOG SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

All Distinctive Character Names and Likenesses Are Trademarks Of Their Copyright Owners.

(Continued from page 8)

many who carry the intrigue of The Warrior. He seems to receive more publicity when he is on extended sabbatical than he does when he is wrestling. No matter how many times fans may feel spurned, they long for his presence the minute he leaves. He has never claimed to be a scientific whiz, but he carries a charisma that may be sorely needed in WCW.

Fans have waited more than eight years for a rematch of the Hogan-Warrior classic at WrestleMania VI. Where Warrior is concerned, fans have had to do a lot of waiting.

Think about it. WCW thrives on major signings and, frankly, it's been a while since the last one. The federation's last major coup was Bret Hart. But that was way back in November. Wrestling fans were seeing the same mix week after week. *Nitro's* ratings were lower than those of most live *and* taped *Raws* in recent months. WCW saw the need to do something, so perhaps it took the "ultimate" risk.

Now Vince McMahon is certainly not going to lay back and let the ratings be shaken like the ropes in The Warrior's fists. He will fight back with his own surprises and, perhaps, acquisitions. He may put his own body on the line again. That is the really the best thing about this Warrior return. Each promotion in its own way gets a little better and a little more popular. Ironically, The Warrior might bring out the best in his rival promotion as well.

I'll admit that I am the biggest skeptic of all when it comes to this guy. Since I began contributing to this fine family of magazines, I have watched all his disappearances and all the stunning reappearances. We've been quick to put his face on covers (and, may I add, made him the subject of cartoons), only to see him pull another quick disappearing act. But perhaps the past is the past. Perhaps The Warrior and the WWF were not meant to be together, their destinies moving in two very different directions.

The Warrior speaks of a revolution, but what he has to understand is that revolutions take time. If he sticks around, he'll get his share of victories, but he'll have to be willing to accept a few defeats as well. If he is truly committed to the destruction of Hollywood Hogan and his group, it might take longer than what a short-term WCW contract will allow. He needs to dig in his boots, hold on to those shaking ropes tight, and fight the good fight for which he is preaching.

The Warrior. Perhaps the "ultimate" savior of WCW.

I recognize that by the time this column is printed, Warrior may be gone yet again. But I guess it's time to give him a second (or is it fourth?) chance. New surroundings may have a calming effect on him. New allies will join old friends. New enemies will be looking to tarnish the legend. New fans. New arenas. New promotion. "New" might be just what Warrior needs.

But then again, that new exit door is just as easy to find. □

TOP 10 THINGS WARRIOR WANTED TO SAY TO HOGAN BUT DIDN'T

10. Where is the closest Pastamania?
9. Hold on. Let me check my thesaurus for the meaning of "quixotic."
8. That Renegade guy really cracked me up.
7. Whatever happened to that Zodiac dude?
6. NWO? Heck, I would rather be a Blade Runner again.
5. Now checking for "milieu."
4. Is it me or are there a lot of WWF guys backstage?
3. Girl Power.
2. Looking ... looking ... ah, yes, "serendipitous!"
1. Snort! Damn adenoids!

FIGURES Inc.

MasterCard · VISA · DISCOVER · AMERICAN EXPRESS

Orders/Questions Call - (401) 946-5720
FAX (24 Hours) - (401) 946-8492

HOURS (EST) Monday-Friday - 9 a.m.-8 p.m. EST
Saturday - 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Closed Sunday

Address: FIGURES Inc.
P.O. Box 19482, Johnston, RI 02919

VIEW OUR CATALOG ON THE INTERNET - http://www.wrestlingsuperstore.com E-Mail: FigInc@aol.com

WWF PHOTOS & POSTERS

Official 8x10 Full Color Glossy Photos
$5.00 each or (any 10 for $45.00)
(photos are put in a plastic sleeve for protection)
Choose from:

The Undertaker	Owen Hart	
Sunny 1-5	Vader	British Bulldog
Marc Mero	Shawn Michaels	Mankind
Amed Johnson	Golddust	Smoking Gunns
Psycho Sid	Steve Austin#1-4	Legion of Doom
Ken Shamrock	Kane (Fighting Undertaker)	
Helmsley and China	Sable #1 (back shot)	
Sable #2 (Bikini)		

Official Full Color Posters 16" x 20"
$6.00 each or (any 2 for $10.00)
(posters come rolled and in plastic for protection)
Choose from: Sunny, The Undertaker, Shawn Michaels

WWF Full Color 8x10 Framed Pictures

$8.00 each or set of 4 for $25
Choose from:
Austin, Undertaker, Sunny and Shawn D Generation X

SUPERSIZE STUFFED HULK HOGAN DOLLS

These are Supersize Stuffed Hulk Hogan Dolls with a plush body with a detailed face. Hulk is wearing a "Python Power" bandana.
2 1/2 ft. Stuffed Hulk Hogan Doll ..... $25.00 ea.
3 1/2 ft. Stuffed Hulk Hogan Doll ..... $50.00 ea.
SPECIAL DEAL: Get Both Hulk Hogans for $70.00

CMLL MEXICAN WRESTLING BUDDIES 18" STUFFED DOLLS

by Future Toys of Mexico (1993)
They are just like the WWF Wrestling Buddies that were put out a few years back. They stand 18" tall.
Choose from: **$25.00 each or (any 2 for $40.00)**
Pierroth or Tinieblas

NEW 90 MINUTE WRESTLING VHS VIDEO BOXED SET

"THE GLORY DAYS OF WRESTLING - The Way It Was 1950's & 1960's"
6 Fabulous matches containing: Gorgeous George, Jesse James, Antonio Rocco, Johnny Valentine, Killer Kowalski, Haystacks Calhoun, Nature Boy Rogers, Fabulous Kangaroos and more
$20.00 BOXED VIDEO SET

WRESTLING MAGAZINE GRAB BAG

Wrestling Eye, Wrestling Fury, PWI, Wrestling All Stars, etc (our choice)
1990s (any 4 for $10.00)
1980s (any 4 for $10.00)

WCW SLAM JAM - THE ORIGINAL WCW WRESTLING ALBUM

11 OFFICIAL THEME SONGS OF THE WCW STARS by Grand Theft Productions (1992)
Songs included are: "Don't Step to Ron"; "Man Called Sting"; "Mr. Bang Bang"; "Master of the DDT"; "Freebird Forever"; "Simply Ravishing"; "Johnny B Badd"; "The Natural"; "The Dragon"; "He's Smokin"; "Steinerized"
Factory sealed by Grand Theft Records (1992)
Compact Disc version is $15.00
Cassette Tape version is $12.00

6" WCW WRESTLING FIGURES

(All figures mint on card) **by San Francisco Toymakers**

1996 WCW 2nd Series Figures

Randy "Macho Man" Savage	$20.00 ea.
Johnny B Badd (silver tights)	$15.00 ea.
Ric Flair (green tights and boots)	$15.00 ea.
Sting (pink and yellow tights)	$15.00 ea.
Hulk Hogan #2 (yellow shirt w/ belt)	$15.00 ea.
Vader #2 (black and red)	$15.00 ea.

1997 WCW 3rd Series Figures

Hulk Hogan (Pre-ring yellow/red outfit)	$10.00 ea.
Sting (new black and pink outfit)	$10.00 ea.
Ric Flair (red tights)	$10.00 ea.
Big Bubba Rogers (black pants and hat)	$10.00 ea.
Craig Pittman (in Marine outfit)	$10.00 ea.
Alex Wright (leather jacket/blue tights)	$10.00 ea.
Macho Man Randy Savage #2 (red/yellow)	$10.00 ea.
Booker T (from Harlem Beat)	$15.00 ea.
Stevie Ray (from Harlem Beat)	$15.00 ea.
The Giant (black tights)	$20.00 ea.
Complete set of all 10 series 3 figures	$80.00 set

WCW WRESTLING RING

(Mint in box) **$40.00 each**
with 4 electronic sounds and removable steel cage. Ring size is 13 1/2" by 13 1/2"

97 WCW 3rd SERIES TAG-TEAM 2PACKS

RARE Limited Edition "A Figures Inc. Exclusive!"
$25.00 per set or (any 2 sets for $40.00)
Choose from:
Harlem Heat (blue outfits) Blue Bloods!!!!
Nasty Boys (green outfits)
NWO Hulk Hogan & Macho Man Randy Savage (black outfits)

WCW MONDAY NITRO 1997

7 1/2" Action Figures
(w/ vibrating action)
$10.00 each or complete set of 8 for $75.00
Choose from:

Hollywood Hogan	Kevin Sullivan
Scott Hall	Kevin Nash
The Giant	Lex Lugar
Chris Benoit	Sting (w/ bat)

SPECIAL TWO FIGURE PACK
HULK HOGAN & DENNIS RODMAN 2PACK

This is a 2 figure pack that includes Hollywood Hogan and Dennis Rodman $20.00 for set of 2

WCW MAIN EVENT TRADING CARDS

WCW Main Event 1995 Trading Cards by Cardz Inc. These came out in 1995 and contain Hulk Hogan, Ric Flair, Macho Man Savage, Arn Anderson, etc. *Some* packs contain randomly inserted autographed cards.
($2.00 per pack) (10 packs for $10.00) (36 pack box for $25.00) or Complete set of 100 for $20.00 *Also Available* – Uncut Sheet of 50 WCW Cards for $20.00 sheet (great for wall hanging)

WCW BELT BUCKLE PLAYSETS

Kid sized belt buckles styled to look like the real championship belts. Opens up to reveal a complete wrestling arena with a audience. Each set contains 1.5 inch tall figures and a WCW sign.
$12.00 each or (Both Sets for $20.00)

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT
Comes with the Hollywood Hogan and Sting with removable steel cage

TAG TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING BELT
Comes with Kevin Nash and Scott Hall vs. the Nasty Boys Tag Team

OTHER WCW CARDS

Complete set of 161 WCW cards featuring Flair, IRS, Steiner Bros., Sting, Freebirds, etc. (1991) **$10.00 per set**

BADSTREET U.S.A. T-SHIRTS

A killer black t-shirt w/ blood red Badstreet logo 100% cotton

Adult Medium	$20.00 ea.	Adult Large	$20.00 ea.
Adult X-Large	$20.00 ea.	Adult XX-Large	$22.00

BADSTREET U.S.A. WORKOUT SHIRT

Killer white workout t-shirt w/ the Badstreet U.S.A. logo. 100% cotton.

Adult Medium	$20.00 ea.	Adult Large	$20.00 ea.
Adult X-Large	$20.00 ea.		

Badstreet U.S.A. Black Baseball Cap ..... $16.00 ea.

"OFF THE STREETS" CASSETTE (1987)

Featuring Michael Hayes, the Freebirds and the Badstreet Band, produced by Jimmy Papa. A cassette from 1987 by Grand Theft Productions. Great sounding w/ 11 songs featuring the hit "Badstreet USA" Factory sealed by Grand Theft Productions (1987)
CD or Cassette versions are $15.00 each

BADSTREET U.S.A. - THE VIDEO (1984)

VHS format will fit any VCR, 2 hour video produced by Jimmy Papa professionally shot video. Quality is very good.
THIS 2 HOUR VIDEO INCLUDES
- Starts with the actual music video of "Bad Street USA"
- Then shows a PM Magazine TV show showing the on location footage during filming of the video.
- Shows highlights from Texas Stadium Strap Match Freebirds vs. The Von Erichs in a 6 man tag team match
- Shows Freebirds vs Von Erichs the entire 6 man tag team title match all 6 wrestlers in the ring at once anything goes.
- Shows another 6 man tage team match Freebirds vs. Missinglink, Ackbar and Super D2.
- Shows Cindy Lauper with the Freebirds in the WWF debut.
- Shows Michael Hayes and the Badstreet bands first musical concert as he sings all his hits off "Badstreet USA" Album
- Shows parts of another Badstreet concert from a Dallas Night Club
- Shows another concert where the Von Erichs come on stage which ends in fighting on stage
- Shows the second video "Boys are back in town" with wrestling highlights and shows the behind the scenes taping session.

PRICE $20.00 PER COPY

PAYMENT TERMS:
CHECKS, MONEY ORDERS, ALL MAJOR CREDIT CARDS, CASH.
MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO FIGURES, INC.
NO ORDER FORM NEEDED, JUST WRITE DOWN ORDER ON A PIECE OF PAPER AND SEND ALONG WITH PAYMENT
30 DAY RETURN MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

PHONE NUMBERS:
ORDERS/QUESTIONS PLEASE CALL
1-401-946-5720
FAX ORDERS (24 HOURS) TO:
1-401-946-8492

SHIPPING IS $5.00 PER TOTAL ORDER
ORDERS SHIPPED SAME DAY RECEIVED
ALL ITEMS ARE IN STOCK
INTERNATIONAL ORDERS WELCOMED

60 PAGE SCI-FI AND SUPERHERO ACTION FIGURE CATALOG SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

36 PAGE WRESTLING CATALOG SEND $2.00 FOR A COPY

All Distinctive Character Names and Likenesses Are Trademarks Of Their Copyright Owners.

YOU ASKED US

(Continued from page 16)

recently The New Age Outlaws dropped the tag team title and Hunter Hearst Helmsley lost the European belt to D-Lo Brown. I would like to ask 'Triple-H' why DX is losing so much."—Randy Peirce, Camden, NJ

A: "We lose two matches in the last six months and people are acting like it's the end of the world," Helmsley remarked. "I don't need the European belt around my waist to prove to everyone how great an athlete I am. I mean, how prestigious could the European title be if Owen Hart won it? As for The New Age Outlaws, Billy Gunn and Jesse James got screwed, and everybody saw it on *Raw*. X-Pac and I are closing in on 'The Crock's' Intercontinental belt. One of us will knock that idiot down a peg or two. So don't worry, Randy, DeGeneration X is still in business. Yeah, we have our hands full with The Nation right now, but mark my words: The gold will be coming DX's way very, very soon. Hell, I might even take the European belt back from D-Lo just to remind him of how lucky he got in our first match."

• • •

Q: "I have a question for Scott Hall: Scott, you said on *Nitro* that the reason you split with Kevin Nash was money. How could you break up The Outsiders over a few dollars? You are a sellout!"—Marlene Shrappnek, Detroit, MI

A: "Hey, yo, Marlene, sticks and stones can break my bones ... you know the rest," Hall responded. "So I'm a sellout—so what. If you really want to know what happened, 'Medium Sexy, The Nash Killer' will tell ya. I got into a little personal jam and needed some money right away. I thought I could turn to my main man Kev, but he didn't return my calls, didn't answer the doorbell. You know who came up with the green stuff? Wasn't Sting. Wasn't Savage. Wasn't 'K-Dogg' or Luger. Nope, It was 'Easy-E' and Hollywood Hogan. Big Kev came up real small. He turned his back on me, and I was supposed to be his best friend. But now I got all the cash I need, I got the baddest gang in wrestling watching my back, and I got a real giant for a tag team partner. Oh, yeah, I almost forgot—I got a tag team belt, too."

• • •

We know Faarooq can handle Savio Vega, but is he ready to challenge for the WWF title? He says yes, but a more immediate goal is to win the WWF World tag team title.

Q: "My question is for Faarooq: Faarooq, when are you going to challenge 'Stone-Cold' Steve Austin for the WWF World title? I personally feel that your shot is long overdue."—David Bodnar Jr., Philadelphia, PA

A: "My challenge to Steve Austin, and anybody else for that matter, always stands," Faarooq said. "Any time Austin wants to put his belt on the line, I'm here to answer the bell. But a few months ago, I decided to reunite with an old friend. I'm talking about 2 Cold Scorpio. Scorpio and I did real well together a few years ago, and I think the six years of experience we picked up since then will only make us stronger. I could see us challenging for the tag team title real soon. Even though the ultimate goal is to win the World belt, I'm thinking a lot about tag teams right now. Besides, if you're a real fan of mine, you know that I never back down from a challenge. And Austin does a lot of talking. So you might see Faarooq vs. Austin sooner than you think." □

Send your questions to:
YOU ASKED US, c/o THE WRESTLER
Box 1148, Ft. Washington, PA 19034

SCRAPBOOK

(Continued from page 33)

AWA World champ Jerry Lawler made a bloody mess of Kerry Von Erich en route to winning the World Class heavyweight title at SuperClash III.

Tanaka & Paul Diamond; 4—Stan Lee & Bobby Eaton; 5—Steve Williams & Kevin Sullivan; 6—The Warlord & The Barbarian; 7—The Samoan Swat Team; 8—Dennis Condrey & Randy Rose; 9—The British Bulldogs; 10—Robert Fuller & Jimmy Golden.

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 1993

DECEMBER WAS NOT kind to WCW World champion Big Van Vader, who started the month by submitting to UWFI champion Nobuhiku Takada's cross armbreaker in front of 46,168 fans at Tokyo's Jingu Baseball Stadium on December 5. Vader ended the month by losing the WCW World title to Ric Flair at Starrcade in Charlotte on December 27 ... "Stunning" Steve Austin also emerged from Starrcade with a new title after defeating Dustin Rhodes for the U.S. championship ... WWF head Vince McMahon was indicted on charges of possession of anabolic steroids and conspiracy to distribute them. McMahon faced up to eight years in prison and a $500,000 fine if convicted on both counts. He was later acquitted on both charges .... Former wrestler Rufus R. Jones suffered a heart attack and died while deer hunting near his home in Kansas City, Missouri, on November 13. He was 60 ... At ECW's November to Remember card on November 13, Sabu and Road Warrior Hawk beat Terry Funk and King Kong Bundy in a special tag team match in which Funk's TV title was on the line. Sabu pinned Funk and got the belt after Bundy turned against him. Funk ended Sabu's stretch as dual champion by beating him for the ECW heavyweight title at the Arena in Philadelphia on December 26 ... Mitsuharu Misawa and Kenta Kobashi won the All-Japan World's Strongest League tag team tournament when they topped All-Japan tag team champs Akira Taue and Toshiaki Kawada at Budokan Hall in Tokyo on December 3. Misawa and Kobashi finished the tourney with a 6-0-1 record. Giant Baba and Stan Hansen finished second overall at 5-0-2 ... Color commentator Bobby "The Brain" Heenan ended his nine-year relationship with the WWF when he left the promotion in December. Heenan later joined fellow former WWF broadcaster "Mean" Gene Okerlund in WCW ... Alundra Blayze (a.k.a. Madusa Miceli) captured the revived WWF World Women's title on December 13 when she beat Heidi Lee Morgan in Poughkeepsie, New York ... Wrestler Larry Cameron died after suffering a heart attack during his bout with Tony St. Clair in Bremen, Germany, on December 13. He was 41.

WCW RATINGS: 1—Ric Flair; 2—Steve Austin; 3—Big Van Vader; 4—Steve Regal; 5—Rick Rude; 6—Dustin Rhodes; 7—Sting; 8—The Boss; 9—Brian Pillman; 10—Ron Simmons.

Vince McMahon was charged with steroid possession with the intent to distribute in 1993. The WWF boss could have faced jail time and a fine if convicted, but he was later acquitted.

WWF RATINGS: 1—Yokozuna; 2—Razor Ramon; 3—Bret Hart; 4—The Undertaker; 5—Shawn Michaels; 6—Lex Luger; 7—Crush; 8—Marty Jannetty; 9—Doink the Clown; 10—Ludvig Borga.

ECW RATINGS: 1—Terry Funk; 2—Sabu; 3—Mr. Hughes; 4—Tasmaniac; 5—Tommy Cairo; 6—Rockin' Rebel; 7—Tommy Dreamer; 8—Hawk; 9—Kevin Sullivan; 10—Salvatore Bellomo.

TAG TEAMS: 1—The Nasty Boys; 2—The Quebecers; 3—Rick & Scott Steiner; 4—The Heavenly Bodies; 5—2 Cold Scorpio & Marcus Bagwell; 6—Cactus Jack & Maxx Payne; 7—The Bruise Brothers; 8—The Rock 'n' Roll Express; 9—Paul Orndorff & Paul Roma; 10—Men on a Mission. □

BACK ISSUES OF THE Wrestler

Don't miss a single issue of the magazine that has thrilled wrestling fans for two generations, THE WRESTLER. Complete your collection of the most respected wrestling publication in the world today. Supplies are limited. Don't delay—order today!

Dec. 1978: The Injury Andre The Giant Must Keep Secret. Also: Victor Rivera, Brisco-Spoiler, Heenan & Bockwinkel, Tully Blanchard, Mulligan, Dino Bravo, D. Funk-Race, Rocky Johnson.

March 1979: Backlund vs. Ladd: Did Bruno's "Interference" Cost Ladd The WWWF Title? Also: Angelo Mosca, Dick Murdoch, Peter Maivia, Bob Orton Jr., Bockwinkel-Rhodes, Brisco-Race, Crusher Blackwell, Lewin-T. Funk.

May 1979: Paul Jones-Rick Steamboat Feud: Who Is Really To Blame? Also: Valiants, Jack Brisco, Larry Hennig, Johnson-King, Lanza-Mulligan, Chief Jay Strongbow, Snuka-Patera.

July 1979: Ernie Ladd's Claim: "Mr. Wrestling II Uses A Loaded Mask!" Also: Backlund-Race, Andre-Baker, Bruno Sammartino, Nick Bockwinkel, Dick Slater, Sonny King, Valiants, Stan Hansen.

Sept. 1979: A New—And Deadly—Feud For Rick Steamboat. Also: Roddy Piper, Superstar Graham, Backlund-Brower, Cyclone Negro, Greg Gagne, The Bruiser-Brody, Dino Bravo, Mil Mascaras, Hussein Arab.

March 1980: Bruno Sammartino: "I Know The Secret That Could End Bob Backlund's Reign!" Also: Ric Flair, Andre-Brody, Blackjack Mulligan, Bobby Heenan, Murdoch-Race, Mr. Wrestling II, Nick Bockwinkel.

April 1980: Did Ken Patera Destroy Dusty Rhodes' Bionic Elbow? Also: Terry Funk, Kevin Von Erich, DiBiase-Backlund, Bockwinkel & Heenan, Baba-Race, Mr. Wrestling II, Youngblood & Steamboat.

Aug. 1980: The Reign Of Bloodshed Begins: Stevens & Valentine Win The NWA Tag Team Title! Also: Kerry Von Erich, Backlund & Skaaland, Nick Bockwinkel, Zbyszko-Bruno, Keirn-Muraco, Samoans, Wrestling II-Idol.

June 1981: Bruno Sammartino: "I Want To Break Stan Hansen's Neck!" Also: Ted DiBiase, Garea & Martel, Mike Graham, Mongolian Stomper, Piper-Superstar, Verne Gagne, Tommy Rich.

Sept. 1980: Why Ernie Ladd Says ... "I'm Tired Of Being Your King." Also: Rick Steamboat, Mad Dog Vachon, Bugsy McGraw, Patera-Patterson, Manny Fernandez, Bob Backlund, Greg Gagne, Mike Sharpe.

Oct. 1980: Kevin Von Erich Wins The Missouri Title From Kevin Von Erich! Also: Mr. Wrestling II, Pedro Morales, Superstar Graham, Dusty Rhodes, Idol-Race, Rick McGraw.

Feb. 1981: Larry Zbyszko's Claim: "Tony Garea Begged Me Not To Hurt Him!" Also: The Grappler, Race-Patera, Hussein Arab, Humperdink-Rhodes, Gilberts, Mr. Wrestling II, Bravo-Bockwinkel.

Jan. 1982: Rich vs. Masked Superstar: Can Tommy Rich Survive As Georgia's Last Hero? Also: Kiwis, Bockwinkel-Atlas, Mascaras-Steamboat, Sullivan-Taylor, Bruno Sammartino.

March 1982: U.S. Champion Slaughter vs. Former NWA Champion Race: How Harley Race's Attempt To Win An "Easy" Title Ended In Disaster. Also: Jimmy Snuka, Flair-Idol, Steve Keirn, Steamboat-Patterson, Fuji-Albano-Saito, Bruno Sammartino Jr., Bruiser-Sullivan.

Aug. 1982: Nick Bockwinkel: "Tommy Rich Is Too Stupid To Be Champion!" Also: Putski-Adonis, Blackjack Mulligan Jr., Roddy Piper, Rick Steamboat, Lawler-Kaufman, Mike Graham.

April 1982: How Jack Brisco Controls Ric Flair's Championship Destiny. Also: Tito Santana, Valentine-Atlas, Bob Roop, Armstrongs, John Studd, Eric Embry.

June 1982: Ric Flair vs. Rick Steamboat: How The NWA Belt Strangled Wrestling's Greatest Friendship. Also: Piper-Armstrong, Hussein Arab, Bruno Sammartino, Adonis & Ventura, Butch Reed.

July 1982: Harley Race—His Destiny Is In The Hands Of Tommy Rich. Also: Rick Steamboat, Chief Jay Strongbow, Buzz Sawyer, Ric Flair, Roddy Piper.

Sept. 1982: Dusty Rhodes Returns To Florida: The Tragic Comeback That Should Not Have Happened. Also: Manny Fernandez, Armstrong-Piper, Blassie-Mulligan, Japan, Bockwinkel-Hogan.

Dec. 1982: Morales vs. Snuka: Does Pedro Deserve To Be Intercontinental Champion? Also: Bob Orton Jr., Kamala, Rich & Rhodes, Barry Windham, Ted DiBiase, JYD-Bockwinkel, Oliver Humperdink.

Feb. 1983: Exclusive Coverage: Nick Bockwinkel Regains The AWA Title From Otto Wanz. Also: Backlund-Graham, Rich-Sawyer, Barry Windham, Martel & Garea, McDaniel & Piper, Kamala.

May 1983: What Will Happen When The Samoans Become Too Smart For Capt. Lou Albano? Also: Tommy Rich, Terry Allen, Eddie Gilbert, Kerry-Race, Ladd & Rhodes, Flair-Orndorff.

June 1983: Flair-Windham Match Spurs Controversy: Should The NWA Champion Be Allowed To Choose His Challengers? Also: Ivan Koloff, Bruiser Brody, Kerry Von Erich, Andre-Kamala, Brazil-Valentine, Gagnes-Martel.

July 1983: Ric Flair: "I Wrestle The Men Backlund Is Afraid Of." Also: Putski-Adonis, Kevin Sullivan, Bob Roop, Martel-Heenan.

Sept. 1983: Nick Bockwinkel Forces Hulk Hogan Into Exile: And Only The Fans Can Bring Him Back. Also: Briscos, Blackwell-Kerry-Race, Paul Ellering, Mulligan & Windham.

Nov. 1983: Target—Harley Race! Can Dusty Rhodes Fulfill His American Dream A Third Time? Also: Rick Rude, Rotundo-Kabuki, Gagne & Brunzell, Tito Santana, Von Erichs-Freebirds.

Dec. 1983: The Night The AWA World Title Was Stolen From Mil Mascaras. Also: Roddy Piper, Larry Zbyszko, Dino Bravo, Fabulous Ones, Garin & Sunshine.

March 1984: Is Tito Santana Trying To Blackmail The WWF? Also: Wayne & Sawyer, Hogan-Race, David Von Erich, Jesse Ventura.

June 1984: David Von Erich—We'll Never Forget You. Also: Billy Jack, Flair-Race, Bockwinkel-Bravo, Brickhouse Brown.

Aug. 1984: Garvin vs. Roberts: "Hands Of Stone" Crushes "The Snake." Also: Freebirds-Devastation Inc., Sawyer-Sullivan, Lawler & Dillon, McDaniel-Race.

Sept. 1984: Kerry Von Erich Wins The NWA Title: For David ... For Texas ... For Wrestling! Also: Billy Jack, Bundy & Superstar-Road Warriors, Piper & Orndorff-Johnson & Atlas, Rick Martel.

Nov. 1984: The $50,000 Full-Nelson Challenge Match: Billy Jack Gets Revenge Against Superstar Graham. Also: Piper-Hogan, Heenan & Saito, Brody & Hansen, Von Erichs.

Dec. 1984: The Tully Blanchard-Rick Steamboat Feud: Will Dusty Rhodes End It ... Or Make It Worse? Also: Tito Santana, Martel-Atlas, D. Funk, Mike Von Erich, Williams-Taylor.

Jan. 1985: Kerry Von Erich: "I've Got Ric Flair's NWA Title Within My Grasp." Also: Albano & Lauper, Koloffs & Kernodle, Road Warriors, Lawler & Rude, Scott McGhee.

April 1985: Six-Man Riot! Road Warriors & Ellering vs. Rhodes, Rich, & Anderson. Also: Tonga Kid, tomorrow's stars, Adams-Kevin, Flair-Jack, Terminators.

June 1985: Are The WWF Rulebreakers Singling Out Barry Windham For Destruction? Also: Zbyszko-Backlund, Rhodes-Blanchard, Tommy Rich, Oliver-Haynes.

July 1985: It's A Dog's Life ... And Junkyard Dog Wouldn't Trade It With Anyone! Also: Backlund-Martel, Kernodle-Koloff, Butch Reed, Hernandez & Sunshine, Mike Graham.

Aug. 1985: Ten Days Of Blood And Glory: The Road Warriors Invade Japan! Also: Terry Taylor, Magnum T.A., Bugsy McGraw, Sheik & Volkoff-Windham & Rotundo, 20th anniversary.

Oct. 1985: David Shultz Gets An NWA Title Shot: Ric Flair—"I Wrestle The Men Hulk Hogan Is Afraid Of!" Also: Misty Blue, Rick Martel, Kendall Windham, George Steele, Killer Brooks, wrestling greats' all-time top 10.

June 1986: Kerry Reveals His Secret: "I've Told Magnum T.A. How To Beat Ric Flair!" Also: Steve Williams, Hogan-Orton, Flair-Bockwinkel, Lex Luger.

Nov. 1986: Morton & Gibson Take A Trip To Badstreet U.S.A.: The Rock 'n' Roll Express vs. The Freebirds. Also: Eddie Gilbert, Hogan-Orndorff, Mike Von Erich, Mulligan-Bass.

Dec. 1986: Ric Flair's NWA Title Reign: Last Chance To Silence The Critics! Also: Nikita Koloff, Gilbert & Sting, Hogan-Piper, Abdullah-Adams, Nick Bockwinkel.

Feb. 1987: Tragedy Strikes Wrestling: Magnum T.A. Needs Your Prayers Now More Than Ever. Also: Roberts-Steamboat, Crusher Yurkof, Terry Gordy, Wendell Cooley.

March 1987: Ivan & Khrushchev's Kremlin Orders: Crush Nikita Koloff's Russian Revolution! Also: Barry Windham, One Man Gang, Brian Adias, Savage-Steamboat, Jimmy Snuka.

April 1987: Hulk's Giant Tasks: Hercules, Kamala ... And Andre? Also: Luger-Allen, Rich-Lawler, Rude & Fernandez-Rock 'n' Rolls, Kevin Von Erich, Skandor Akbar.

June 1987: The Hart Foundation vs. The Can-Ams: Special Analysis Of This WWF Superfeud! Also: Nick Bockwinkel, Paul Orndorff, Rhodes & Murdoch, Steve Williams.

July 1987: Missy Hyatt: Will She Kiss And Tell In The WWF? Also: Chris Adams, Hart Foundation, Luger & Horsemen, Nikita-Cornette, Stan Hansen.

Sept. 1987: Independence Day! Also: Hennig-Bockwinkel, Hart Foundation, Koloffs, Bubba Rogers, Missy Hyatt.

Oct. 1987: The Honky Tonk Man Wins The Intercontinental Title: Is Randy Savage The Fans' Last Hope. Also: Kerry Von Erich, Ken Patera, Sting-Gilbert, Horsemen-Freebirds, Zbyszko-Gagne.

Dec. 1987: Hulk Hogan: Will He Be Drowned By The New Wave Of Challengers? Also: Hennig-Lawler, Windham-Steiner, Flair-Williams, Brutus Beefcake, Ronnie Garvin.

Jan. 1988: The Experts Agree: The Road Warriors Will Turn Bad In 1988! Also: Koloff-Taylor, Curt Hennig, Duggan-DiBiase.

Feb. 1988: Ric Flair Admits: "I'm Nothing Without The NWA Belt!" Also: Kerry Von Erich, Jim Cornette, Hogan-Andre, Hennig-Lawler, Terry Taylor.

March 1988: After Four Years As Champion ... Only Hulk Hogan Can Beat Hulk Hogan. Also: Warriors-Demolition, Steve Williams, Luger & Dillon, Calgary, Terry Gordy.

April 1988 (Special Issue): Starrcade, Survivor Series, World Class: Wrestling's Greatest Day! Also: Midnight Rockers, Luger-Horsemen, Santana & Martel, McDaniel-Hennig, Bobby Eaton.

May 1988: Belt Or No Belt ... Hulk Hogan Is Still The People's Champion! Also: Madusa Micelli, Owen Hart-Flair, Tatum & Victory, Scott Hall, Luger-Anderson.

June 1988: How Sting's War With Ric Flair Could Make Him A Horseman! Also: Bobby Heenan, Martel-Zenk, Kerry-Gordy, Ted DiBiase, Nikita Koloff.

Aug. 1988: World Tag Title Power Shift! Also: Windham & Luger, Demolition, Taylor-Freebirds, Paul Ellering, Owen & Bret.

Oct. 1988: The Fantastics Declare: "We Will Not Share Our Fans With The Rock 'n' Roll Express!" Also: Rhodes-Windham, Curt Hennig, Roberts-Rude, Rougeaus, Jim Garvin.

Jan. 1989: The Horsemen Destroyed! The World Title Gained! But The Midnight Express Must Still Prove Themselves! Also: Top Guns, Hart & Rougeaus, Andre-Savage-Hulk, Terry Gordy, Kevin Von Erich.

Feb. 1989: The Road Warriors: "Sting, Dusty, & The Fans Can Go To Hell!" Also: Madusa Miceli, Blue Blazer, Warrior-Hogan, Bigelow-Gordy, Eddie Gilbert.

March 1989: Scared Stiff! "Don't Say Snake!" Also: Jeff Jarrett, Cactus Jack, Ric Flair, Bam Bam Bigelow, Hercules, Iron Sheik.

April 1989: Hulkamania Runs Wild Again! Can Randy Savage Stop The Onslaught? Also: British Bulldogs, Road Warriors-Sting & Luger, Lawler-Kerry, Andre, Mike Rotundo.

May 1989: Rick Steamboat—Champion; Rick Steamboat—Challenger: Which Is Better? Also: Sid Vicious, Dusty Rhodes, Savage-Hogan, Samoan Swat Team, Wendi Richter.

June 1989: Ultimate Warrior's Mission Impossible: Destroy Randy Savage For Hulk Hogan. Also: Rick Steamboat, Rick Martel, Larry Zbyszko, Luger-Windham by Sting, Ric Flair.

July 1989: Dino Bravo: The Man Hulk Hogan Cannot Beat! Also: Flair-Steamboat, Rhodes & Perez, Road Warriors & Ellering, Michael Hayes.

Aug. 1989 (Special Issue): Supercard Sunday! Exclusive Coverage Of WrestleMania V And Clash Of Champions VI. Also: Kerry-Embry, Randy Savage, Great Muta, Ted DiBiase, Teddy Long.

Sept. 1989: Our Urgent Plea To Ric Flair: Don't Wrestle Terry Funk. Also: Demolition, Roddy Piper, Hogan-Zeus, Larry Zbyszko, Jerry Lawler.

Oct. 1989: No Holds Barred! Hogan & Beefcake vs. Savage & Zeus: An Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: Eric Embry, Four Horsemen, Teddy Long, Hayes-Luger, Art Barr, Billy Jack Haynes.

Nov. 1989: Roddy Piper Pins Randy Savage ... And Hulk Hogan Is Scared Stiff! Also: Mr. T & Von Erichs, Garvin & Hayes, Flair-T. Funk, Dustin-Steel Man, Sgt. Slaughter.

Dec. 1989: Gary Hart: "Muta Took The Sting Out Of Sting!" Also: Skyscrapers, Andre-Warrior, Barry Windham, Rock 'n' Rolls, Scott Norton, Ken Patera.

Jan. 1990: The Hulk Hogan Book Of Lists. Also: Brian Pillman, Rich-Luger, Tully & Arn, P.Y. Chu-Hi, Greg Gagne.

Feb. 1990: Can Sting Keep Luger From The NWA Belt? Also: Terry Gordy, Rick Martel, Hogan-Brown, Doom, Nikita Koloff, Bruce Hart.

March 1990: Funk-Flair: "I Quit!—One War Ends, Two More Begin. Also: Nikita Koloff, Survivor Series, Steiners, Hogan-Zeus, Jim Cornette.

April 1990: Hulk Hogan: A Decade Of Greatness. Also: Luger-Flair, Woman, Piper-Heenan, Billy Travis, Badd Company.

May 1990: Sting & Ultimate Warrior: Running A Parallel Course To Greatness. Also: Von Erichs, Big Bossman, Pillman & Zenk, Hulk Hogan, Mark Callous.

June 1990: Hulkamania—The Fall And Rise! Also: Rockers, Koloffs, Horsemen, Flair-Luger, Steiners.

July 1990: My 10 Challenges To Ric Flair, By Lex Luger. Also: Lanny Poffo, Dusty-Savage, Luger-Flair, Doom, Tully Blanchard.

Aug. 1990: Hogan-Warrior II: You Can Make It Happen. Also: Eric Embry, Demolition, Doom, Larry Zbyszko.

Sept. 1990: The Ultimate Warrior Wimps Out! Why He Won't Wrestle Hulk Hogan. Also: Billy Jack Haynes, Lex Luger, Doom-Steiners, Tugboat, Kerry-Borne.

Oct. 1990: Hulk Hogan vs. Earthquake: Exclusive SummerSlam Preview & Analysis. Also: Ultimate Warrior, Ric Flair, Tommy Rich, Tasmanian Devil, Chris Von Erich.

Nov. 1990: The Luger-Sting Rivalry: Ready To Explode Again! Also: Lawler & Dundee, Brutus Beefcake, Kerry Von Erich, Harley Race, Steiners.

Dec. 1990 (Special Issue): SummerSlam! Exclusive Full-Color Coverage! Also: Stan Hansen, Arn Anderson, Ultimate Warrior, Vic Steamboat, Scott Putski.

Feb. 1991: The Incredible "Halloween Havoc Hoax"! Unraveling The Diabolical Plot. Also: Muta-Steamboat, Hogan-Hart, Ultimate Warrior, Cornette & Express, Norman.

March 1991: Warning To The Ultimate Warrior: Roddy Piper Wants You! Also: Gilbert-Jarrett, Cornette & Express, Teddy Long, Survivor Series, Scott Norton.

April 1991: Hulk Hogan: The Challenges That

Remain. Also: Ted DiBiase, Skyscrapers, Lex Luger, Tom Zenk, Fabulous Ones.

May 1991: Only Hulk Hogan Can Rid The WWF Of The Stench Of Sgt. Slaughter. Also: Ric Flair, Bobby Eaton, Sheik-Brazil, Power & Glory, Terry Funk.

June 1991: How Much Longer Can We Depend On Hulk Hogan? Also: Nasty Boys, Sting, Flair-Gigante, Cactus Jack, Kevin Von Erich.

July 1991: Can Ric Flair Shatter The "Myth" Of Japanese Superiority? Also: Embry & Prichard, LOD-Nastys, Steiners, Savage & Elizabeth.

Aug. 1991: If Sgt. Slaughter Said "I'm Sorry" ... Would Hulk And The World Forgive Him? Also: Luger-Nikita, Hennig-Davey Boy, Lanny Poffo, Bam Bam Bigelow.

Oct. 1991 (Special Issue): 25 Years—The Silver Anniversary Celebration Of Wrestling's Most Respected Magazine. Includes: Year-By-Year, greatest photos, 25 greatest wrestlers, Q & A Bruno Sammartino.

Nov. 1991: Lex Luger Wins The Title—But Loses His Fans. Also: Rick Steamboat, Roddy Piper, Global, Diamond Studd, Lawler-Embry.

Dec. 1991: Roddy Piper's Exclusive Analysis: Flair vs. Hogan—Who Will Win The Match Of The Century? Also: Sting, 25 greatest teams, Beverly, Cactus Jack.

Jan. 1992: The LOD's Championship Catastrophe: Overpowered By The Natural Disasters. Also: Johnny B. Badd, Mr. Hughes, Jake Roberts, Ronnie Gossett.

Feb. 1992: Shocking WWF Report: McMahon Offers Bounty On Flair—Will Vince Pay The Piper? Also: Ron Simmons, Tito Santana, Bob Backlund, R. Steiner-Abdullah.

March 1992: After Survivor Series & Tuesday In Texas: Has The WWF Title Suffered Irreparable Damage? Also: Brian Pillman, Anderson & Bruiser, Rude-Sting, Mountie-Hart, Jeff Jarrett.

April 1992: After A Year Of Tragedy & Turmoil: The Magic Is Back In WCW! Also: Chris Candido, Paul Orndorff, Lady X, Paul Bearer, Hennig & Flair, Michaels & Jannetty.

Dec. 1992: He's *Baaaaaack!* Jake Roberts Slithers Into WCW. Also: Paul E. Dangerously, Ron Simmons, Hulk Hogan, Michaels-Martel, Gilberts-Rock 'n' Rolls.

May 1992: He Rumbled Past 29 Men ... Ric Flair's Hour Of Power: Can One Man Stop Him At WrestleMania VIII? Also: Anderson & Eaton, Roddy Piper, Dusty Rhodes, USWA, Dori Owen.

June 1992: In Ric Flair's High-Stakes Championship Game, Hulk Hogan & Sid Justice Are Mere Pawns. Also: Eddie Gilbert, Ultimate Warrior, Vinnie Vegas, WCW titles, Koko B. Ware.

July 1992: "Number Two Just Won't Do": For Rick Rude, The U.S. Belt Means Failure: Also: Madusa, Gorilla Monsoon, LOD, Nurse Vanessa, Greg Valentine, Sabu.

Aug. 1992: The Ultimate Warrior: Wrestle-Mania's Accidental Hero. Also: Bunkhouse matches, Undertaker-Roberts, Sting, JYD, Rob Van Dam.

Sept. 1992: Hey, Legion Of Doom—Go For The Title Or Go Away! Also: Repo-Crush, Mondo Kleen, Freebirds-Valentine & Taylor, Dangerous Alliance, Moondogs.

Oct. 1992: British Bulldog & Ultimate Warrior: Why They'll Be Crowned At SummerSlam. Also: Scotty Flamingo, Brian Lee, Martel-Tatanka, Steve Austin, Sting.

Nov. 1992: WWF Beware! It's The Perfect Time For A Curt Hennig Comeback! Also: Crush, Butch Reed, Sting, Buddy Rogers, Dan Spivey.

Jan. 1993: Sting Turns Sadistic: "Hurting Jake Makes Me Happy!" Also: Anderson & Eaton, Bushwhackers-Moondogs, Ramon-Savage, Natural Disasters, Masa Chono.

Feb. 1993: WWF Champion Bret Hart: His Five Most Dangerous Challenges. Also: Sgt. Slaughter, Steve Austin, Rick Steiner, Bob Backlund, Terry Taylor.

April 1993 What's In? What's Out? Also: Razor Ramon, Rick Steamboat, Patriot, Tatanka, Brian Christopher.

May 1993: Sumo Sadism: Will Yokozuna Make His Biggest Splash At WrestleMania? Also: Jim Cornette, Christopher-Jarrett, Benoit-Scorpio, Windham & Rhodes, Hennig-Luger.

Nov. 1993: Bret Hart vs. Lex Luger: It's Not Over Yet! Also: Rude-Dustin, Hulk Hogan, Marty Jannetty, Heavenly Bodies, Tatanka, Sherri Martel.

Jan. 1994: Roasted, Broiled, Fried, Baked ... Any Way You Cook It, Hogan's A Chicken! Also: Rude-Flair, Bagwell & Scorpio, Jim Cornette, Jerry Lawler, Hansen & T. Funk-Abdullah & Sullivan.

May 1994: Aftershocks! How The Royal Rumble Shook Up WrestleMania. Also: Hulk Hogan, Boss, Douglas-Sherri, Patriot, improve WCW.

June 1994 (Special Issue): What's Your Wrestling IQ? Also: Brian Pillman, greatest matches, Missy-WCW, Steiners & Harts, Ron Simmons, Mr. Hughes, Doink.

July 1994: Ric Flair vs. Hulk Hogan: We Preview The Inevitable Battle. Also: Dreamer-Snuka, Jim Crockett's WWN, Ted DiBiase, Shane Douglas, Terra Ryzing.

Aug. 1994: Bret's Nightmare Team Becomes A Reality: Owen Hart & Yokozuna. Also: Cactus-Vader, MOM, Flair-Badd, Nasty Boys, Luna Vachon.

Sept. 1994 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report! Also: Big Van Vader, Parker-Hollywood Blonds, Sting-Rude, WWF legal problems, Prince Kharis, Bunkhouse-Rhodes, Public Enemy.

Oct. 1994: The Undertaker: Two Bodies, One Soul. Also: Cactus Jack, Scorpio-Sabu, Terry Funk, Sheik, Bunkhouse Buck, Diesel-Michaels.

Nov. 1994: Hulk Hogan's New Commandments: Say Prayers, Take Vitamins ... And Kick Butt! Also: Owen-Bret, Lord Steven Regal, Johnny B. Badd, Jerry Lawler, Mikey Whipwreck.

Dec. 1994: Hulkster Under Siege! Can Hogan Hold Off WCW's Best? Also: Lex Luger, Sid Vicious, Steve Austin, Adam Bomb, Dusty Rhodes.

Jan. 1995: Our Holiday Wish List For 1995. Also: Johnny B. Badd, DiBiase-Tatanka, Bob Backlund, PG-13, Hacksaw Duggan.

March 1995 (Special Issue): 1994—The Year In Pictures. Also: Sullivan-Hogan-Sullivan, WWF '95-WWF '85, Ric Flair, MOM, 911.

April 1995: Imagine Wrestling Today If ... Also: Gunn & Smothers, Harlem Heat, Money Inc., Lawler-Cornette.

July 1995: Hulk Hogan's Contract With America: Also: Marty Jannetty, Brian Pillman, Lawrence Taylor, Bill Dundee.

Oct. 1995: President Backlund?! Also: Steiners, Austin & Pillman, Miss Texas, Gordon Solie.

Nov. 1995: "Take That—And Shut Up!" If Savage Can't Silence Flair, He's Through! Also: Mabel, Jarrett-Ramon, Renegade, WWF legends roundtable.

Dec. 1995 (Special Issue): "20Shawn Michaels: Too Good To Be Second Best! Also: Wrestling rulebook, Vega-Ramon, Mama Cornette, Kamala-Duggan, Big Van Vader.

Winter 1995: Exclusive Preview: Sting vs. Hogan: This Time It's For Real! Also: Steiners, Yankem-Undertaker, Bodies-Cornette, Arn Anderson.

March 1996 (Special Issue): 1995—The Year In Pictures. Also: Hogan-Hart, Big Van Vader, Sabu, Brian Pillman.

April 1996: Luger, Sting, Hogan, Savage: Can't We All Be Friends? Also: DiBiase & Kid, Diesel-McMahon, Dallas Page, Jeff Jarrett.

May 1996: WWF In-Vader! Can Bret, Shawn, & Razor Play The Pain Game? Also: Public Enemy, Steve Austin, wrestling oddities, Kensuke Sasaki, Ric Flair.

June 1996 (Special Issue): Fear Of Height! How The Giant Is Paralyzing Wrestling. Also: Shock 'n' Wrestling, Razor Ramon, Brian Pillman, Konnan.

July 1996: Babes In Boyland! Also: Sunny, Elizabeth, Kimberly, Inoki-Vader, WCW tag teams, Woman.

Aug. 1996: Shawn Michaels: Finally—He Has The Title ... Now Here's What He's Gotta Do With It! Also: Public Enemy-Nastys, Bret Hart, Booty Man-Sullivan, Mabel.

Sept. 1996 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report. Also: Savio Vega, Sabu-Scorpio, Chris Benoit, Goldust, Olympians, Giant.

Oct. 1996: Muscling Back To The Top: The Warrior Is Ready To Rule Again. Also: Warriors & Sasaki-Steiners & Norton, Razor & Diesel, Mabel & Mo, Blue Meanie.

Nov. 1996: Brian Pillman: Next WWF Champ! Also: Giant-Sting, Ray Stevens, Dick Murdoch, Cloudy, John Tenta, WCW shuffle.

Dec. 1996 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: Ahmed Johnson, Ric Flair, Mero & Sable, Goldust, Sandman.

Holiday 1996: WCW Shocker: Randy Savage Is Set To Join Hulk Hogan's NWO! Also: Steve Austin, Michaels-Goldust, Arn Anderson, Van Dam-Sabu, Steve Williams.

Jan. 1997: It Could Happen! Hogan's Next Move ... Buy WCW! Also: Undertaker, New Jack, Owen-Bulldog, Ted DiBiase.

Feb. 1997: Wrestling's Top Stars: What 1997 Has In Store For Them! Also: Michaels-Hart, Pit Bull I, Rey Misterio Jr., Kevin Nash.

March 1997 (Special Issue): 1996—The Year In Pictures. Also: Hulk Hogan, Austin-Pillman, Dallas Page, Hunter Hearst Helmsley.

May 1997: Hogan's Headache: The Pain Is Piper! And The Remedy Is Revenge! Also: Michaels-Hart, Guerreros, J.C. Ice, gang violence, Marc Mero.

July 1997: Infighting, Politics, Egos: Is The NWO Losing Its Edge? Also: WWF-ECW, Dean Malenko, Super 8 tourney, Jerry Lawler.

Sept. 1997 (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report: Plus: NWO, Shawn-Bret, football players, Terry & Dory Funk, Luna.

Oct. 1997: Bret Hart & Shawn Michaels: How Low Will They Go? Also: Paul E. Dangerously, DDP & Kimberly, Rhodes family, Keiji Muto.

Nov. 1997: 10-Year Grudge! Lex Luger's Career Ruined By J.J. Dillon? Also: Shawn-Bret, Jeff Jarrett, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Dreamer-Raven, Dan Severn.

Dec. 1997 (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: Guerreros, Taz, Syxx, Paul Bearer, Brian Christopher.

Hol. 1997: First Owen ... Then Taker ... Then Hogan: Who's Gonna Go Next? Also: Steve Austin, Bret Hart, Lex Luger, Ric Flair, Dean Malenko.

Jan. 1998: Lex Luger's Plea To Sting: "Read This Story—Your Career Depends On It!" Also: Hart Foundation, Hardcore Heaven, Headbangers, Arn Anderson.

March 1998 (Special Issue): 1997—The Year In Pictures. Also: Rey Misterio Jr., Undertaker, Giant, Road Warriors.

April 1998: "We've Won!" Maybe ... But Can The NWO Handle Its Own Success? Also: Ken Shamrock, Steiners-Warriors, Douglas & Francine, Rocky Maivia.

May 1998: Mike Tyson: Stepping Into Wrestling Hell! Also: Bischoff-Zbyszko, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Meng & Barbarian, ECW, "Hollywood" Hogan.

June 1998 (Special Issue): "Hollywood" Hogan: 10 More Dirt Deeds ... And He's Outta Here! Also: Randy Savage, DeGeneration X, Jim Cornette, Randy Savage, then and now.

July 1998: Death Wish! Costing Hogan The Title Isn't Enough For The Macho Man. Also: Headbangers, Ric Flair, Chris Chetti.

Aug. 1998: We Stand Behind Ya, Vince! It's Time To Fire Austin. Also: Luna-Sable, Randy Savage, Dean Malenko, Super 8 tourney.

Sept. 1998: (Special Issue): WWF Midyear Report: Also: Nash-Hogan, Rocky Maivia, Bill Goldberg, Antonio Inoki.

Oct. 1998: The Mother Of All Pay-Per-Views! A WWF-WCW Supercard Is No Longer Just Talk! Also: Sable, Undertaker, Randy Savage, Sabu & Van Dam.

Nov. 1998: Demons Be Damned! Sting Makes The Giant See Red! Also: McMahon-Dude, Jarrett-Blackman, Melanie Pillman, Rey Misterio Jr.

Dec. 1998: (Special Issue): WWF vs. WCW: Top 10 Faceoff! Also: ECW midyear report, Ric Flair, Kane.

THE WRESTLER

☐ DEC 78	☐ MAR 84	☐ MAY 88	☐ FEB 91	☐ MAY 94	☐ FEB 97
☐ MAR 79	☐ JUN 84	☐ JUN 88	☐ MAR 91	☐ JUN 94	☐ MAR 97
☐ MAY 79	☐ AUG 84	☐ AUG 88	☐ APR 91	☐ JUL 94	☐ MAY 97
☐ JUL 79	☐ SEP 84	☐ OCT 88	☐ MAY 91	☐ AUG 94	☐ JUN 97
☐ SEP 79	☐ NOV 84	☐ JAN 89	☐ JUN 91	☐ SEP 94	☐ SEP 97
☐ MAR 80	☐ DEC 84	☐ FEB 89	☐ JUL 91	☐ OCT 94	☐ OCT 97
☐ APR 80	☐ JAN 85	☐ MAR 89	☐ AUG 91	☐ NOV 94	☐ NOV 97
☐ AUG 80	☐ APR 85	☐ APR 89	☐ OCT 91	☐ DEC 94	☐ DEC 97
☐ SEP 80	☐ JUN 85	☐ MAY 89	☐ NOV 91	☐ JAN 95	☐ HOL 97
☐ OCT 80	☐ JUL 85	☐ JUN 89	☐ DEC 91	☐ MAR 95	☐ JAN 98
☐ FEB 81	☐ AUG 85	☐ JUL 89	☐ JAN 92	☐ APR 95	☐ MAR 98
☐ JUN 81	☐ OCT 85	☐ AUG 89	☐ FEB 92	☐ JUL 95	☐ APR 98
☐ AUG 81	☐ JUN 86	☐ SEP 89	☐ MAR 92	☐ OCT 95	☐ MAY 98
☐ JAN 82	☐ JUL 86	☐ OCT 89	☐ APR 92	☐ NOV 95	☐ JUN 98
☐ MAR 82	☐ NOV 86	☐ NOV 89	☐ MAY 92	☐ DEC 95	☐ JUL 98
☐ APR 82	☐ DEC 86	☐ DEC 89	☐ JUN 92	☐ WIN 95	☐ AUG 98
☐ JUN 82	☐ FEB 87	☐ JAN 90	☐ JUL 92	☐ MAR 96	☐ SEP 98
☐ JUL 82	☐ MAR 87	☐ FEB 90	☐ AUG 92	☐ APR 96	☐ OCT 98
☐ AUG 82	☐ APR 87	☐ MAR 90	☐ SEP 92	☐ MAY 96	☐ NOV 98
☐ SEP 82	☐ JUN 87	☐ APR 90	☐ OCT 92	☐ JUN 96	☐ DEC 98
☐ DEC 82	☐ JUL 87	☐ MAY 90	☐ NOV 92	☐ JUL 96	
☐ FEB 83	☐ SEP 87	☐ JUN 90	☐ DEC 92	☐ AUG 96	
☐ MAY 83	☐ OCT 87	☐ JUL 90	☐ JAN 93	☐ SEP 96	
☐ JUN 83	☐ DEC 87	☐ AUG 90	☐ FEB 93	☐ OCT 96	
☐ JUL 83	☐ JAN 88	☐ SEP 90	☐ APR 93	☐ NOV 96	
☐ SEP 83	☐ FEB 88	☐ OCT 90	☐ MAY 93	☐ DEC 96	
☐ NOV 83	☐ MAR 88	☐ NOV 90	☐ NOV 93	☐ HOL 96	
☐ DEC 83	☐ APR 88	☐ DEC 90	☐ JAN 94	☐ JAN 97	

In case of a sellout, indicate substitute choice: _____

Please send me the back issues of THE WRESTLER I have checked off. I have enclosed $5 for each issue as payment in full or provided my credit card number to charge my purchase ($20 minimum).

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ VISA # _____

☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration Date: __/__
MO YR

Signature: _____

Name _____

Address _____ Apt. _____

City _____

State _____ Zip _____

ONLY $5 EACH

Send To:
LONDON PUBLISHING CO.
BOX 910
FT. WASHINGTON, PA 19034

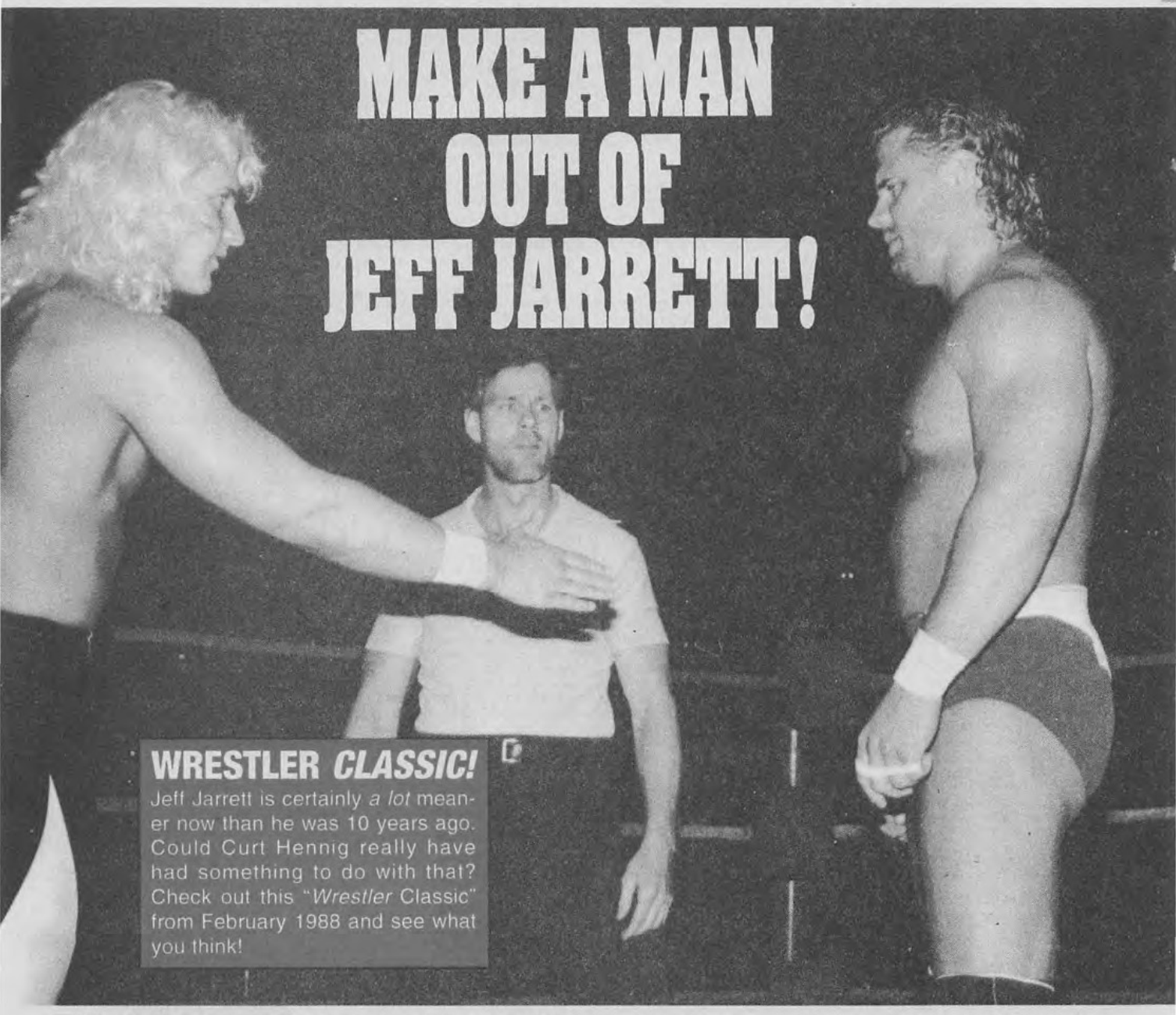
For all orders outside the U.S., you must add $1.50 for every back issue to be sent boat mail, and $3.00 for every back issue to be sent airmail. Int'l money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

4764/06-98/20

RING THE BELL TV on Archive.org

Curt Hennig's Memphis Mission:

MAKE A MAN OUT OF JEFF JARRETT!



WRESTLER *CLASSIC!*

Jeff Jarrett is certainly *a lot* meaner now than he was 10 years ago. Could Curt Hennig really have had something to do with that? Check out this "*Wrestler* Classic" from February 1988 and see what you think!

YOUNG JEFF JARRETT stood in his corner of the ring waiting for the match to begin. Dressed in skin-tight two-colored spandex pants, matching wrestling boots, and a fancy sequined V-neck jacket, his blond hair flowing down to his shoulders, Jarrett hardly looked like he was about to contend for the AWA World heavyweight championship.

"When I saw what he was wearing," said World champion Curt Hennig, "I pinched myself, thinking I was dreaming. Here's this guy about to wrestle the biggest match of his life and he looks like he just spent the morning in the beauty parlor and the afternoon getting fitted for clothes by Liberace's tailor! I almost couldn't

Mid-America champion Jeff Jarrett is one of the up-and-coming stars of professional wrestling. But his match against AWA World champion Curt Hennig, showed that he still has some learning—and toughening up—ahead before he enjoys full success

Photos by Sam Lowe

Jeff Jarrett, the Mid-America champion, flips AWA World champion Curt Hennig (above), who comes back with a leglock (top) and a chinlock (right). Hennig believes that Jarrett could be a good wrestler someday, but only if he toughens himself up and learns to use the rules to his advantage.

wrestle, I wanted to laugh so hard. Here I am, ready to defend my belt, and there's a man dressed like a woman standing on the other side of the ring.

"And you know what?" added Hennig. "As it turns out, the boy's not a bad wrestler. His style reminds me a little of myself before I turned the corner to greatness. The problem is that Jarrett's just that: a little boy. The promoter's son is nothing more than daddy's little boy. Jerry Jarrett couldn't tough it out, and neither can his son. That's another difference between me and Jarrett: My father was a *real* man."

Hennig was being arrogant as usual, but there was some truth to what he said. Jeff Jarrett, the Mid-America heavyweight champion, is a fine scientific wrestler and an up-and-coming star, but he's only 200 pounds; compared to the 235-pound Hennig (who is not a giant by any means!), Jarrett *does* look like a little boy. His style of dress might drive the female fans wild, but it does nothing to intimidate a formidable opponent such as Hennig. And not only does Jarrett lack the looks of a killer, he lacks the killer *instinct*.

"Nothing, an absolute zero in the guts department," said Hennig. "He desperately needs somebody to whip him into shape and teach him a lesson. I think I can make a man out of Jarrett, but first he's gonna have to endure some punishment in the ring. It takes a few battle scars to get that fire in your eyes."

Hennig was admittedly impressed with certain aspects of Jarrett's repertoire during their October 5 match at Memphis' Mid-South Coliseum. Jarrett had Hennig on the run following a series of armdrags and takedowns; he even had the World champion flat on the mat for a pin at one point but couldn't get the three-count.

Experience, guts, and a willingness to stretch the rules in his favor finally turned the match for Hennig. Not afraid to use a chokehold or two, and more than willing to hurt his rival, Hennig fi-

nally scored the pin by illegally grabbing onto Jarrett's trunks when the referee wasn't looking. "Just a little improvising," Hennig cracked afterward.

Jarrett was satisfied with his performance and thought he could have beaten Hennig. "I was just *this* much away from beating him tonight," said Jarrett, holding his thumb and index finger a fraction of an inch apart. "I don't think you're gonna find too many guys who won the title in their first at-

Jarrett goes for the cover (above), the closest he would come to pinning Hennig that night. Hennig flips Jarrett to the mat (bottom left) and gets the pin (below), which he accomplished by grabbing Jarrett's tights.

tempt—let's face it, it took Hennig months before he could beat Nick Bockwinkel—so I'm not discouraged. I'm gonna keep on trying."

But will he keep on shaking hands with his opponent before a match? Will he continue to rely on his scientific ability without mixing in some of the brawling techniques so necessary for success in professional wrestling? These techniques might work against some of the lesser lights in the Mid-Southern area, but they don't quite cut it against a world champion.

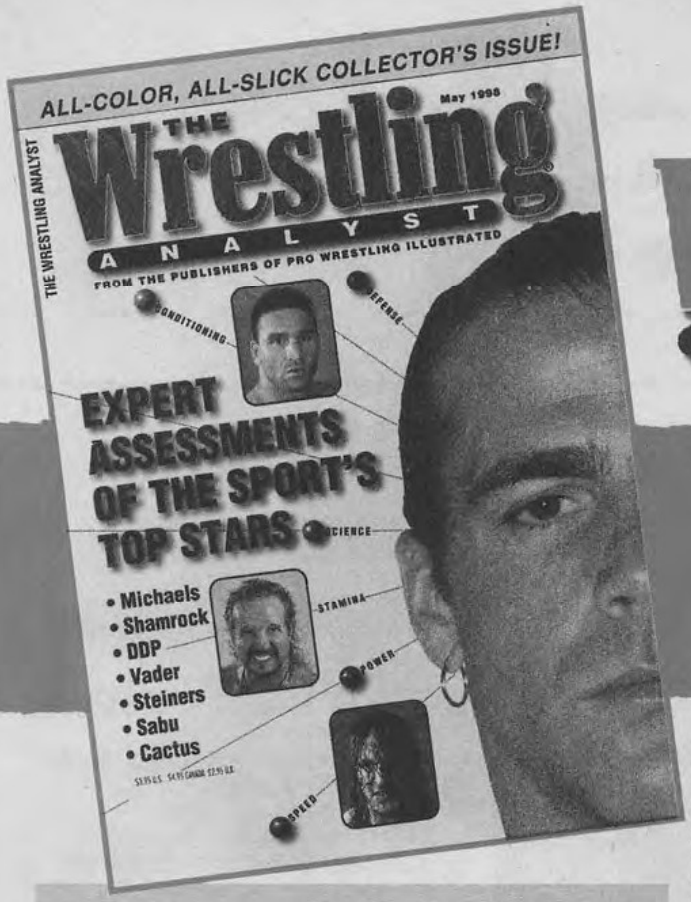
"You know, I was the same way once," admitted Hennig. "I knew all these scientific moves and I could execute them perfectly, but I never broke the rules and I never resorted to what they call punching and kicking. I had this wimp of a teammate, Greg Gagne, who felt the same way and it got me nowhere. People used to come up to me and say, 'Curt, your father was one of the toughest men in wrestling history. What happened to you?' Meanwhile, there I was getting all these matches against Bockwinkel for the title but never breaking a single rule or really trying to tear apart an opponent.

"Let me tell you this," Hennig continued. "In pro wrestling, your opponent will tear you apart if you give him the chance. This is a brutal sport, not the sweet science you reporters pretend it to be, and you just have to get down in the trenches once in a while and slug it out. The men in this sport are big and strong; these amateur wrestling moves don't always cut it. Fortunately, I had my father and Larry Zbyszko to show me the way.

"The thing is, I'm not sure who's gonna show Jarrett the way," he said. "He has this self-righteous attitude, undoubtedly brought on by his daddy, and I wouldn't be surprised if he's only getting these title shots *because* of his daddy. A guy like Jarrett never wears you down, and you always have to be in just the right position for him to execute his moves. He should bulk up, start lifting some weights, maybe learn how to throw a closed-fist punch, and start studying the rulebook so he knows what he can get away with.

"Maybe I taught him a lesson tonight. Can you believe he tried to shake hands with me before the match? I was gonna twist his hand off, but I decided to give him a break. But he's not gonna get too many more breaks. There isn't much room in this sport for a 200-pound amateur wrestler. What I say is the truth because I speak from experience."

Experience that Jeff Jarrett sorely needs. □



IF YOU DON'T SUBSCRIBE TO THE Wrestling ANALYST YOU NEED ANALYSIS!

If you have been searching for a wrestling magazine that is jammed with action-packed, full-color photos, insightful writing, and is printed on ultra-high quality paper … your search has ended!

Introducing THE WRESTLING ANALYST, the newest magazine from London Publishing Co.—the same folks that publish PRO WRESTLING ILLUSTRATED. Published six times a year, THE WRESTLING ANALYST is the only all-slick, all-color wrestling magazine that covers the hottest stars from *ALL* the federations.

In each issue, eight of wrestling's biggest stars are thoroughly evaluated. For each wrestler, you get an in-depth analysis covering 20 different categories, including offense, defense, experience, conditioning, stamina, power, ability to absorb punishment, and much, much more.

Subscribe today and receive 15% off the cover price when you sign up for six issues. Subscribe for 12 issues and save even more—20% off the cover price.

SEND TO:
London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

☐ Yes, I would like to subscribe to **THE WRESTLING ANALYST**! I have enclosed a check or money order made payable to London Publishing Co. or provided my credit card information to charge my subscription.

☐ I have enclosed $20.14 for a 6-issue subscription (a 15% savings)

☐ I have enclosed $37.92 for a 12-issue subscription (a 20% savings)

RINGTHEBELL.com on Archive.org

Name _____

Address _____ Apt.# _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

☐ *Check or money order (enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)*

☐ *VISA #* _____

☐ *MasterCard* _____

Expiration Date: ____/____
MO/YR

Signature: _____

Above prices apply in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries $24.94 for 6 issues ($35.14 airmail), $47.52 for 12 issues ($67.92 airmail). For orders outside the U.S., pay by international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

4673/01-98/2c

The Wrestler

TOP 10

1. **STEVE AUSTIN**
   252, Victoria, TX
   (1) WWF World champion
2. **BILL GOLDBERG**
   270, Tulsa, OK
   (2) WCW World champion
3. **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY**
   279, Greenwich, CT
   (6) WWF Intercontinental champion
4. **BRET HART**
   235, Calgary, Alberta
   (-) WCW U.S. champion
5. **THE UNDERTAKER**
   328, parts unknown
   (3) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
6. **KENTA KOBASHI**
   261, Fukuchiyama, Japan
   (8) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
7. **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE**
   260, Tampa, FL
   (7) No. 3 contender: WCW World title
8. **MASA CHONO**
   235, Tokyo, Japan
   (5) IWGP heavyweight champion
9. **CHRIS JERICHO**
   225, Vancouver, British Columbia
   (-) WCW TV champion
10. **ROB VAN DAM**
    237, Battle Creek, MI
    (9) ECW TV champion

Steve Austin

TAG TEAMS

1. **BILLY GUNN & JESSE JAMES**
   Combined weight: 496 pounds
   (5) WWF World tag team champions
2. **SABU & ROB VAN DAM**
   Combined weight: 447 pounds
   (3) ECW tag team champions
3. **SHIRO KOSHINAKA & GENICHIRO TENRYU**
   Combined weight: 555 pounds
   (6) IWGP tag team champions
4. **TOSHIAKI KAWADA & AKIRA TAUE**
   Combined weight: 510 pounds
   (8) All-Japan International tag team champions
5. **LEX LUGER & STING**
   Combined weight: 525 pounds
   (-) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
6. **BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY**
   Combined weight: 585 pounds
   (9) No. 1 contenders: ECW tag title
7. **DISCO INFERNO & ALEX WRIGHT**
   Combined weight: 460 pounds
   (-) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
8. **EIGHT-BALL & SKULL**
   Combined weight: 517 pounds
   (10) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
9. **STEVEN DUNN & RENO RIGGINS**
   Combined weight: 471 pounds
   (-) NWA North American tag team champions
10. **BORDER PATROL**
    Combined weight: 514 pounds
    (-) NWA tag team champions

WCW

World Champion:
BILL GOLDBERG
(C) 270, Tulsa, OK

1. **BRET HART** *(2) 235, Calgary, Alberta*
2. **CHRIS JERICHO** *(6) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia*
3. **DIAMOND DALLAS PAGE** *(3) 260, Tampa, FL*
4. **STING** *(5) 260, Venice Beach, CA*
5. **LEX LUGER** *(1) 265, Chicago, IL*
6. **JUVENTUD GUERRERA** *(4) 165, Mexico City, Mexico*
7. **THE GIANT** *(9) 510, parts unknown*
8. **KONNAN** *(-) 237, Mexico City, Mexico*
9. **STEVIE RAY** *(-) 265, Harlem, NY*
10. **CURT HENNIG** *(-) 235, Minneapolis, MN*

WWF

World Champion:
STEVE AUSTIN
(C) 252, Victoria, TX

1. **HUNTER HEARST HELMSLEY** *(3) 279, Greenwich, CT*
2. **THE UNDERTAKER** *(2) 328, parts unknown*
3. **ROCKY MAIVIA** *(1) 272, Miami, FL*
4. **KEN SHAMROCK** *(4) 235, San Bernardino, CA*
5. **OWEN HART** *(6) 227, Calgary, Alberta*
6. **X-PAC** *(9) 212, Minneapolis, MN*
7. **JEFF JARRETT** *(-) 230, Nashville, TN*
8. **D-LO BROWN** *(8) 305, Bronx, NY*
9. **VAL VENIS** *(-) 250, Las Vegas, NV*
10. **MANKIND** *(-) 277, Truth or Consequences, NM*

NWA

NWA Champion:
DAN SEVERN
(C) 265, Detroit, MI

1. **COLORADO KID** *(1) 231, Denver, CO*
2. **911** *(-) 310, parts unknown*
3. **STEVIE RICHARDS** *(-) 227, Philadelphia, PA*
4. **ERICH SBRACCIA** *(2) 242, Boston, MA*
5. **BILLY BLACK** *(-) 241, Macon, GA*
6. **MR. GILLIS** *(8) 221, Vancouver, British Columbia*
7. **DOUG GILBERT** *(4) 241, Lexington, TN*
8. **BARRY WINDHAM** *(5) 273, Sweetwater, TX*
9. **ACTION JACKSON** *(6) 300, Dallas, TX*
10. **DORY FUNK JR.** *(3) 250, Amarillo, TX*

ECW

ECW Champion:
SHANE DOUGLAS
(C) 240, Pittsburgh, PA

1. **ROB VAN DAM** *(1) 237, Battle Creek, MI*
2. **TAZ** *(3) 248, Red Hook, NY*
3. **THE SANDMAN** *(-) 244, Philadelphia, PA*
4. **CHRIS CANDIDO** *(9) 226, Carteret, NJ*
5. **MASATO TANAKA** *(8) 235, Tokyo, Japan*
6. **BAM BAM BIGELOW** *(5) 368, Mt. Laurel, NJ*
7. **TOMMY DREAMER** *(-) 245, Yonkers, NY*
8. **JUSTIN CREDIBLE** *(2) 225, Waterbury, CT*
9. **SPIKE DUDLEY** *(-) 155, parts unknown*
10. **LANCE STORM** *(6) 234, Calgary, Alberta*

OFFICIAL RATINGS

Top 10 and Tag Team ratings are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and inherent skill of each wrestler or team. These ratings are compiled by the magazine's editorial board. All other ratings are based on the official current positions of challengers to the top title in each category; certain titleholders receive an automatic spot in the ratings. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue while (C) indicates the wrestler was champion in that category last issue.

For period ended September 4, 1998

AMERICAN INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion—Robert Roma; **1**—Don Carson; **2**—Craig Pittman; **3**—Brian Danzig; **4**—Jumpin' Jimmy; **5**—Jackie Anderson; **6**—Daniel Mayes; **7**—Steve Niles; **8**—Easy Rider; **9**—Luscious Kevin; **10**—Jammer.

CHAMPIONSHIP PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Bob Keller; **1**—Demolition Ax; **2**—Shane Shadows; **3**—Honky Tonk Man; **4**—Iron Sheik; **5**—Combat Kid; **6**—Major Mayhem; **7**—Switchblade; **8**—Mohammed Kane; **9**—Mark Mest; **10**—The Cremator.

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION: Champion—Christian Cage; **1**—Reckless Youth; **2**—Lance Diamond; **3**—Inferno Kid; **4**—Devon Storm; **5**—Ace Darling; **6**—Glen Osbourne; **7**—Mark Shrader; **8**—Boogie Woogie Brown; **9**—Mr. Ooh La La; **10**—Thunder.

EASTERN WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Master Sandy; **1**—Tony Atlas; **2**—Jimmy Snuka; **3**—Kid USA; **4**—Dave Vicious; **5**—Robbie Ellis; **6**—Mr. Mercenary; **7**—Freight Train; **8**—Dean Powers; **9**—El Mascarado; **10**—Steve Ramsey.

FRONTIER MARTIAL ARTS: Champion—Hayabusa; **1**—Hiromioni Fuyuki; **2**—Hisakatsu Oya; **3**—Atsushi Onita; **4**—Masato Tanaka; **5**—Jado; **6**—Gedo; **7**—Mike Awesome; **8**—Koji Hakagawa; **9**—Yukiriro Kanemura; **10**—Tetsuo Kuroda.

INTER-CONTINENTAL PRO WRESTLING: Champion—Steve Sharp; **1**—King Mabel; **2**—Treach Phillips Jr.; **3**—Motley Cruz; **4**—Nitetrain Crane; **5**—Bill Ash; **6**—Odell Buckingham; **7**—Johnny Morton; **8**—Johnny Jett; **9**—Doug Masters; **10**—Luke Graham Jr.

MUSIC CITY WRESTLING/GEORGIA: Champion—Billy Black; **1**—Lord Humongous; **2**—Vic Rose; **3**—Rex King; **4**—Notorious D.O.G; **5**—Bucky Siegler; **6**—Dango; **7**—Silky Boom Boom; **8**—Frenchy Riviera; **9**—Rukkus; **10**—Assassin.

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE NEW ENGLAND: Champion—Erich Sbraccia; **1**—Curtis Slamm Dogg; **2**—Knuckles Nelson; **3**—The Mercenary; **4**—Tony Rumble; **5**—Jay Kobain; **6**—Baldo; **7**—Abdullah the Butcher; **8**—Tombstone; **9**—Rick Fuller; **10**—King Kong Bundy.

NORTH AMERICAN WRESTLING ALLIANCE: Champion—Shane Hooker; **1**—Gino Blanchard; **2**—Ray Storm; **3**—Intimidator; **4**—Idol X; **5**—John Stone; **6**—Highland Pit Bull; **7**—Slaid Kane; **8**—Artie Donovan; **9**—Iceman; **10**—Rip Manson.

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING: Champion—Julio Sanchez; **1**—Reckless Youth; **2**—Christian Cage; **3**—Lance Diamond; **4**—Glen Osbourne; **5**—Don Montoya; **6**—Chris Krueger; **7**—Mike Quackenbush; **8**—Flash Flanagan; **9**—Dave Patera; **10**—Armageddon.

PRO WRESTLING FEDERATION: Champion—Italian Stallion; **1**—George South; **2**—Black Angel; **3**—Ripper; **4**—The Baron; **5**—Super Ninja; **6**—The Breeze; **7**—The Bodyguard; **8**—American G.I.; **9**—Flaming Youth; **10**—Cruel Connection II.

PRO WRESTLING XPRESS: Champion—The Player; **1**—Samu; **2**—Quinn Magnum; **3**—Sean Evans; **4**—Papa Gator; **5**—T. Rantula; **6**—J.B. Destiny; **7**—Barry Ray; **8**—Mr. Big; **9**—Brandon K.; **10**—Bubba the Bulldog.

NEW JAPAN

IWGP Champion:
MASA CHONO
(C) 235, Tokyo, Japan

1—SHINYA HASHIMOTO
(5) 287, Gifu, Japan
2—KENSUKE SASAKI
(2) 233, Tokyo, Japan
3—TATSUMI FUJINAMI
(1) 234, Oita, Japan
4—HIROYOSHI TENZAN
(3) 270, Tokyo, Japan
5—KEIJI MUTO
(6) 245, Yamanashi, Japan
6—SHIRO KOSHINAKA
(4) 225, Tokyo, Japan
7—SATOSHI KOJIMA
(-) 223, Tokyo, Japan
8—JUSHIN LIGER
(7) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
9—YUJI NAGATA
(-) 220, Tokyo, Japan
10—SHINJIRO OTANI
(-) 215, Yokohama, Japan

ALL-JAPAN

Triple Crown Champion:
KENTA KOBASHI
(C) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan

1—JUN AKIYAMA
(1) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
2—TOSHIAKI KAWADA
(2) 245, Ashikaga, Japan
3—AKIRA TAUE
(4) 265, Chichibu, Japan
4—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(-) 228, Ashikaga, Japan
5—GARY ALBRIGHT
(8) 343, Billings, MT
6—JOHNNY ACE
(5) 250, San Bernardino, CA
7—TAKAO OMORI
(3) 221, Tokyo, Japan
8—HIROSHI HASE
(9) 225, Kanazawa, Japan
9—MAUNUKEA MOSSMAN
(6) 245, Honolulu, HI
10—YOSHINARI OGAWA
(-) 202, Tokyo, Japan

EMLL

EMLL Champion:
UNIVERSO DOS MIL
(C) 240, Mexico City, Mexico

1—SCORPIO JR.
(10) 195, Nezahaulcoyoti, Mexico
2—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(1) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
3—NEGRO CASAS
(2) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
4—BLUE PANTHER
(4) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
5—ULTIMO DRAGON
(5) 175, Mexico City, Mexico
6—DR. WAGNER JR.
(3) 215, Mexico City, Mexico
7—FELINO
(6) 165, Mexico City, Mexico
8—MR. NIEBLA
(7) 185, Cualtitlan, Mexico
9—BLACK WARRIOR
(8) 221, Mexico City, Mexico
10—VILLANO IV
(9) 198, Naucalpan, Mexico

AAA

AAA Champion:
PERRO AGUAYO
(C) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico

1—ABISMO NEGRO
(1) 210, Pachua, Mexico
2—HEAVY METAL
(2) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
3—FUERZA GUERRERA
(5) 180, Mexico City, Mexico
4—PENTAGON
(6) 175, Pachuca, Mexico
5—LATIN LOVER
(4) 190, Monterrey, Mexico
6—PERRO AGUAYO JR.
(7) 165, Zacatecas, Mexico
7—OCTAGON
(3) 180, Monterrey, Mexico
8—FRISBEE
(9) 175, Tijuana, Mexico
9—LUDXOR
(8) 170, Tijuana, Mexico
10—BLUE DEMON JR.
(10) 180, Toluca, Mexico

Ratings Analysis

Who's next (for Austin)? Okay, so that is the question that is usually asked in reference (and sometimes by) WCW World champion **Bill Goldberg**, but we think it needs to be asked regarding *WWF* World champion **Steve Austin**. Just like he was a clear-cut choice for the top spot in the 1998 *"PWI* 500," he became a lock for the number-one slot in the overall Top 10 again in this issue after he defeated **The Undertaker** in defense of his WWF title at SummerSlam (which isn't to say he had not earned that distinction with all the other big wins he had leading up to that showdown).

Steve Austin

Who *is* left for "Stone-Cold"? Tough question. In the last year, he has decisively beaten **Owen Hart, Rocky Maivia, Kane, Shawn Michaels, Hunter Hearst Helmsley, Goldust, Mankind, Dude Love,** and numerous others. In other words, he has torn through just about the entire upper echelon of the WWF.

Ken Shamrock seems to be the only major superstar to have escaped his wrath. Could he be the next man to step up and demand a title shot against Austin? He certainly would present a difficult challenge to Austin. **Vince McMahon** may have been counting on **Steve Williams** to step up and challenge "Stone-Cold" when he signed "Dr. Death" to a contract this summer, but he was injured during his infamous "Brawl For All" bout with **Bart Gunn**, and it might be a few more months before he's back in peak form.

And granted, the others that Austin has already beaten are all capable of dethroning him on any given night if given another shot, but our point is that Austin, provided that he remains injury-free, could very easily be in that number-one spot in the ratings for many months to come.

Just get rid of it already! WCW has made no secret of the fact that it has de-emphasized its tag team division of late. How many great tag teams have you seen competing there in recent months? And by great tag teams, we don't simply mean duos comprised of two great singles wrestlers. We mean teams that have either been together for a long time or intend to be together for a long time and are focused primarily on tag team competition.

There haven't been many. Just make a list of the last few WCW World tag team champions. As of press time, the champs were **Scott Hall** and **The Giant**. They won the title from **Kevin Nash** and **Sting**, who got the belts when Sting beat The Giant in a singles match and rarely defended them afterward. Before that, **Rick** and **Scott Steiner**, Nash and Hall, and **Harlem Heat**—**Booker T** and **Stevie Ray**—dominated the tag team scene, but none of those three duos is together at this point.

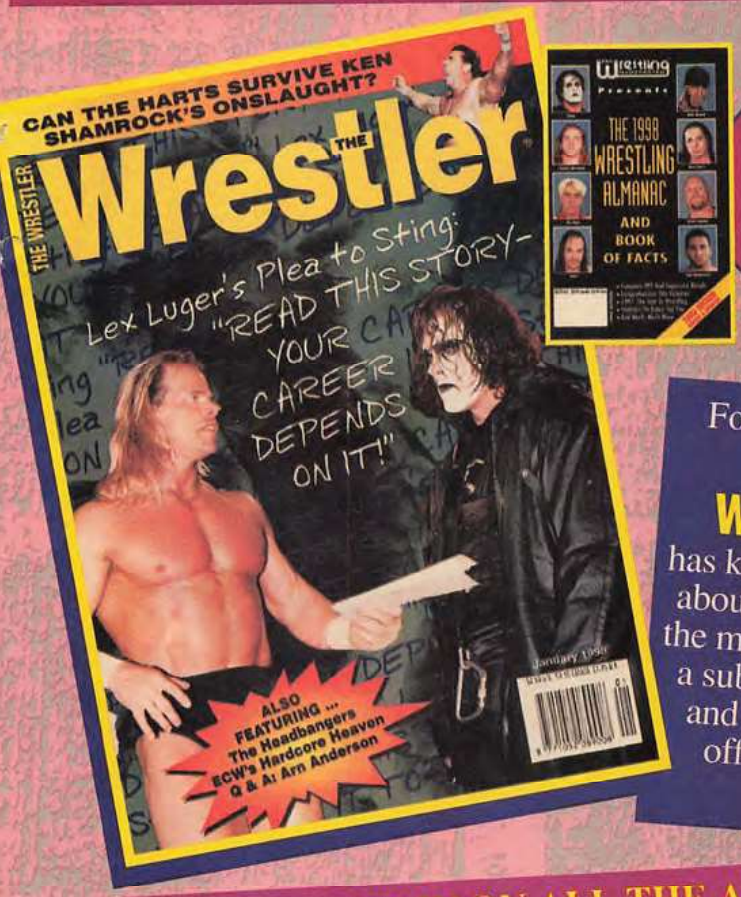
Scott Hall

Public Enemy? **High Voltage**? **Alex Wright** and **Disco Inferno**? All three teams have been competing regularly in WCW for quite a while and are among the top contenders to the tag team championship, but does it even mean that much to be among the top contenders to the WCW tag team title these days? Do any of those three teams qualify as great at this point? Hardly. They're all talented, but they've been so inconsistent.

Because Hall and The Giant hadn't been defending the belts at all in the weeks leading up to press time (the WCW Executive Committee certainly wasn't putting any pressure on them to do so, either), we can't justify giving them a spot in our ratings this month. Maybe if WCW is going to put so little emphasis on the tag team title, it would be better off just eliminating it. □

That's all for this month! **As always, if you have any questions or comments pertaining to anything you see either in our ratings or here on this page, we'd like to hear from you. Write to: "Ratings Analysis," c/o THE WRESTLER, Box 1148, Fort Washington, PA 19034.**

SUBSCRIBE TO *THE WRESTLER* ... AND RECEIVE THE *PWI* ALMANAC FREE!


CAN THE HARTS SURVIVE KEN SHAMROCK'S ONSLAUGHT?
THE WRESTLER
Wrestler
Lex Luger's Plea to Sting: "READ THIS STORY- YOUR CAREER DEPENDS ON IT!"
ALSO FEATURING ...
The Headbangers
ECW's Hardcore Heaven
Q & A: Arn Anderson
January 1998

That's right! The 196-page, digest-sized 1998 edition of the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated Almanac*, complete with title histories, 1997 in review, statistics on wrestlers worldwide, and complete supercard results, is yours free when you subscribe to THE WRESTLER, using the order form on this page!

For three decades, **THE WRESTLER** has kept fans informed about every aspect of the mat sport! Become a subscriber today—and save up to 25% off the newsstand price!

- **More full-length articles than any other wrestling magazine anywhere!**
- **Quarterly special issues—featuring sensational full-color sections!**
- **An exclusive "Q & A" interview with one of wrestling's top stars!**
- **"You Asked Us," in which top stars answer YOUR questions!**
- **Cheers and jeers to those who deserve them most in "Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down"!**
- **"Introducing" a dynamic up-and-coming young star!**
- **A "Spotlight" photo feature on the career of one of the mat's superstars!**
- **On a rotating bimonthly basis: "Beyond The Squared Circle," featuring candid photos of your favorite stars, and "Matt Brock's Looking Back," in which the veteran reporter examines yesteryear's mat classics!**
- **All this—and much, much more!—every four weeks!**

GET IN ON ALL THE ACTION!

Now, with two different ways to subscribe, getting *THE WRESTLER* delivered to your home each month is easier than ever!

- **Get 13 issues of THE WRESTLER for $29.20—a 20% savings off the newsstand price!**
- **Get 26 issues of THE WRESTLER for $54.75—a 25% savings off the newsstand price!**

Send to:

London Publishing Co.
P.O. Box 2021, Dept. 9
Marion, OH 43302

☑ Yes, I would like to subscribe to THE WRESTLER

☐ I am enclosing $29.20 for a 13-issue subscription

☐ I am enclosing $54.75 for a 26-issue subscription

☐ I wish to receive the *1998 PWI Almanac* as a bonus to my subscription and have enclosed $2 to cover postage and handling.

☐ I would like to order the *1998 PWI Almanac* only and have enclosed $7 as payment in full.

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

Name_____

Address_____ Apt.____

City_____ State_____ Zip_____

RING THE BELL on Archive.org

Please indicate method of payment:

☐ Check or money order
(enclosed and payable to London Publishing Co.)

☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard # _____

Expiration date: ____/____
MO / YR

Signature: _____

Price offer good in U.S. only. Canada and all other countries: $39.60 for 13 issues ($61.70 airmail), and $75.55 for 26 issues ($119.75 airmail). For all orders outside U.S., international money order in U.S. funds only. Please allow up to eight weeks before you receive your first issue.

4676/1-98/4c

PRO Wrestling ILLUSTRATED

UPDATED EVERY WEEKDAY AND AFTER PAY-PER-VIEW EVENTS

HOTLINE

HOSTED BY SENIOR EDITOR BILL APTER

When it comes to wrestling, *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* magazine has all the inside information you want and it's only a phone call away.

If it happens in the ring, the locker room, or on the road, you'll hear it here first.

To get all the breaking stories from every federation, call the *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* Hotline now and you'll be the first to learn about ...

Exclusive news from behind the scenes
Upcoming events
Up-to-date results from around the world
Title changes and transactions
Pay-per-view reports
Wrestler of the week
Exclusive scouting reports

Plus ... Tell the editors of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated* what you want to see in the magazine. Dictate a letter to the Editor-in-Chief. Selected letters will be printed in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated.*

CALL NOW

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE U.K., 0897 555 263

☎ **This service is available on both touch-tone and rotary-dial phones.**

*Cost per minute in the United States is $1.99. Cost per minute Canada is $2.49. Cost per minute in the United Kingdom is £1.00.

Kids, get your parents' permission.

BCM Box 6424, London WC1N 3XX

IN THE U.S., 1-900-884-4PWI
IN CANADA, 1-900-451-3101
IN THE U.K., 0897 555 263

4457/08-97